

COVER SHEET

IN THE MATTER OF THE PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO UNDERCOVER POLICING

I, HN321, c/o Designated Lawyers, PO Box 73779, London WC1A 9NL, London,
WC1N 3NR, WILL SAY AS FOLLOWS:

1. This witness statement is made in response to a Rule 9 request dated 25 June 2020. It provides my full recollection of my deployment as an undercover police officer within the Special Demonstration Squad (SDS) of the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS).
2. I am known in this Public Inquiry by the nominal HN321. There is a Restriction Order in force in respect of my real name dated 8 December 2017. When I was an undercover police officer, my rank was Detective Constable, and when I retired/left the MPS it was the same rank.

Personal details

3. I live outside the UK, due to restrictions in what I can state in this non-secret statement, I am unable to confirm my full name and date of birth. These details are however held by the Inquiry.

Police career before and after serving with the Special Demonstration Squad

4. I joined Special Branch in around April or May 1968, I do not remember the specific date. I joined Special Branch as a Detective Constable and remained in that rank whilst working there. I initially worked in 'B-squad' up until the time I was transferred into the SDS in around September 1968. I cannot now

[REDACTED]

remember what B-squad was responsible for. I ended my deployment and left the SDS in around August 1969 and shortly thereafter resigned from the MPS.

5. I have been referred to a document [MPS-0724119] which states my starting date on the SDS was 18 September 1968, I think it was around that time when I was called to a meeting room and told about the SDS, as I discuss below, and sometime thereafter I began working on the squad.
6. I had not done any undercover policing or work using a cover identity prior to joining the SDS. In Special Branch we routinely attended public meetings and I would not have worn a uniform in doing so, but I would not have attended under a false name or address. I do not think I was ever asked such details on attending those meetings.

Special Demonstration Squad – Formation

7. From what I recall from comments from Conrad Dixon and others in the SDS office, the government of the time had been concerned about the large demonstration that was planned to occur in October 1968. There had been riots in streets of Paris in 1968 and I believe the politicians were getting apprehensive that something like that could happen in the UK. At a demonstration in March 1968 in front of the United States Embassy at Grosvenor Square the police were nearly overwhelmed, the police tactic of linking arms did not work and the police lines were broken in several places. If it had not been for the use of mounted police at that demonstration, protestors would have been able to enter the outskirts of the embassy. The prospect of the protestors being confronted by armed force by the US marines within the embassy horrified the government. I understood the MPS Commissioner had been told by the Home Secretary that this could not be allowed to happen

[REDACTED]

again. There was a need for intelligence to enable the police to apply the appropriate manpower to police the demonstration in October. The Commissioner spoke to the Head of Special Branch and Conrad Dixon was tasked with formulating a plan as to how to obtain this intelligence. He was an ex-Royal Marine officer and was used to coming up with plans to meet an objective. It was from there that the SDS was set up by him.

8. The role of the SDS was to provide intelligence to the Commissioner, he needed to know what the groups involved in the planned demonstration were doing so that the demonstration could be policed. On top of that was our normal Special Branch function to identify participants who were the members of these groups. Special Branch had an interest in matters relating to the security of the state. Groups such as the International Marxist Group (IMG) were seeking as part of their Marxist ideology to set up a socialist state and so were of interest to Special Branch.
9. Ordinarily on Special Branch we would have attended public meetings and demonstrations, noting attendees and their activities. The crucial difference between what we had been doing on Special Branch normally and what we did on the SDS was that the SDS work was undercover. It was not part of our role to penetrate organisations on normal Special Branch duties, however it was a specific objective of the SDS.

Selection for the Special Demonstration Squad

10. I had worked with one of the Detective Inspectors on the SDS in the same local area prior to joining Special Branch. When I joined Special Branch I noticed he was also working there. On one occasion, as part of my normal Special Branch duties, I attended a meeting of a radical group. I cannot now

[REDACTED]

recall which one. I was expected to go to the public meeting and observe who was attending it. I attended, spoke to the people on the door and managed to talk my way into the meeting. I sat in the audience, took note of the speeches and what was said and later wrote it up and submitted a report. I recall the Detective Inspector was impressed about how I had managed to get all this information. Sometime after, he indicated to me that there was a meeting that I should attend regarding the formation of a new squad, the SDS.

11. As I mentioned above, in September 1968, I and around 30 or so others were called to a meeting room with Conrad Dixon. He was the Detective Chief Inspector of the SDS. Also present was the Detective Inspector who I knew from my previous work.

12. The attendees were told about the formation of a new squad and that Conrad was looking for volunteers. I cannot recall if they said at that time it was undercover work, we knew as Special Branch officers we attended demonstrations in plain clothes. I cannot recall if we were told at that meeting that the squad would be doing more than that. We were told we would not be able to talk about the work we were doing. I was single in my 20s at the time with no responsibilities and the work sounded exciting, so I volunteered.

13. There was no discussion about what the work on the SDS would entail or its potential impact on our lives or those of our families. When we first started there was no clear guide or plan as to how to undertake this work, we knew the objective was to gain intelligence about the planned demonstration in October 1968, but it was largely left to the discretion of the individual undercover officers to figure out how to obtain that intelligence. I cannot remember any form of briefing, but from the papers I have read in my witness

[REDACTED]

pack it is clear Conrad was aware of the potential stresses we were under. For an example of his approach, I recall on one occasion one of my contemporary undercover officers had become anxious that he had given away details that undermined his cover identity. He had been deployed undercover for a number of months [REDACTED]¹. He attended our SDS group meeting and explained to us that he was scared that he might have blurted something out during a social meeting he had attended with members of his group which would indicate to them that he was a police officer. We as undercover officers knew that if our real identities were discovered in our groups we were surrounded by people who would be hostile to us, that tension was always there.² [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] so the risks for him were perhaps higher. He had become very anxious that his real identity had been accidentally disclosed. I and a couple of others went to Conrad and said he needed to do something for my colleague. As I recall Conrad spoke to him and soon after had him withdrawn from the field and returned to normal Special Branch duties.

Training and guidance in the Special Demonstration Squad

14. There was no formal training before undertaking the role. We knew the objective and had to work out a way to get there. You were operating on your own, at that time we were all self-taught and lived on our wits. We would however verbally share our experiences with each other. For example, someone might relate how they had seen someone in a pub, that they knew from their real life whilst in their undercover persona, and explain what they did to avoid blowing their cover. We all shared and learnt from those kinds of

[REDACTED]

experiences. Beyond this general example, I cannot now recall a specific experience which was shared.

15. I do not recall ever seeing the Home Office Circular 97/1969 'Informants who take part in crime' before nor do I remember its content being brought to my attention. That said we were all police officers and understood, from the 'General Instructions', manual, that we were not to engage in crime. The General Instructions manual was like a textbook given to all police officers and explained things like ranks, organisational structure amongst many other things.

16. I was never given any advice, guidance or instruction on how far it was acceptable to become involved in the private lives of those we met whilst undercover or how close our relationships with them could get.

17. I was never given any advice, guidance or instruction on how far it was acceptable to enter sexual relationships whilst deployed undercover.

18. I was never given any advice, guidance or instruction on provoking or encouraging another person to participate in criminal activity whilst undercover.

19. I recall being told that if we were arrested, we were not to resist and were to go along with the process and that it would be sorted out later with the charges probably being dropped. I cannot remember who told me that or when. I think there were one or two occasions of my contemporaries being arrested, I was never arrested.

20. I was never given any advice, guidance or instruction on what to do if I was brought before a court whether as a defendant or witness.

[REDACTED]

21. I was never given any advice, guidance or instruction on what to do if I obtained as a result of my deployment information subject to legal privilege.

22. I was never given any advice, guidance or instruction on any other ethical or legal limitation on the way we could behave while undercover.

23. There was no formal training and the advice or guidance or instructions I mention above were not, to my recollection, repeated or refreshed during my deployment.

24. I did not receive any training on race equality whilst I was working for the MPS.

Undercover identity

25. My cover name whilst deployed on the SDS was William Lewis, but I was only ever known as Bill. I created that name myself, there was no guidance on how to create a false identity. I did not use any aspect of a deceased child's identity or that of anyone else in the construction of my undercover identity. The only aspect of 'cover background' I had was my job, which I discuss below. Beyond that, had I been asked about, for example, my upbringing, I might have said that I grew up in London, but I do not think I was ever asked. I ran my proposed cover occupation past Conrad and he did not have any criticisms to make of it.

26. I have been referred to a document entitled 'Penetration of Extremist Groups' (MPS-0724119) specifically the section on the process of obtaining identity and background material. I was never required to provide an autobiography for my cover identity as suggested in this document. ³ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[3]

Cover employment

[4]

27. My cover employment was as an instrumentation and control technician [REDACTED]. I chose that job as it was something I could talk about if needed. I did not do any actual work for the organisation whilst I was undercover.

Cover accommodation

28. I used a one room flat in Earls Court for a few months as my cover accommodation. I did not spend much time there. After that I also had a flat in Acton. I had to find the accommodation myself. Conrad told us to go out and set ourselves up, so we applied through adverts in the papers. No-one was there to do it for us. Rent was paid by us in cash received through the Home Office. As I recall, a man from the Home Office attended the SDS offices, probably once a month, and would reimburse us in cash for the expenses we had incurred. I do not recall being asked to keep records or to produce receipts.

29. I did not share my cover accommodation with any other person and did not live anywhere else whilst in my cover identity.

Legend building

30. For ordinary Special Branch duties you were required to wear a suit, plus a collar and tie and polished shoes. Whilst in my undercover identity I wore clothes that were worn, but not to the extent that they would provoke comment, the objective was to blend into the group and not stand out. I grew

[REDACTED]

my hair and moustache (which helped disguise my face) and I often had stubble.

31. I did not visit any places or people to prepare myself for my cover identity and

I did not live for a time in my new identity before approaching my targets.

32. I used a vehicle whilst undercover and I would offer to help to transport people

in the group to places. When I went to Scotland for 'Education Camp' in the

IMG I had three other people from the IMG in the car with me. On several

occasions the IMG's own old van broke down and I helped with my vehicle by

doing some deliveries of their newsletters to the post office.

Deployment

Infiltration

33. My target group was the IMG. I also attended meetings and demonstrations of

the Vietnam Solidarity Committee (Lambeth) (VSC). The VSC was an

umbrella organisation for a lot of left wing groups of which the IMG was part. I

am aware there is reference to the group 'Socialist Action' in a risk

assessment conducted for this Inquiry by the MPS. I believe during the course

of the risk assessment process I may have made a mistake referring to my

involvement in Socialist Action. I think Socialist Action was the name of a

publication by the Socialist Labour League, rather than a group. To be clear I

was only ever involved in the penetration of one group, the IMG. You have to

bear in mind at the time the risk assessment was conducted I had not thought

about these things for 50 years and so made a mistake.

34. I was not really tasked at any group. I recall I was given a pamphlet

advertising a demonstration. I do not recall where the pamphlet had come

from. It may have been handed into the police by a member of the public and

[REDACTED]

forwarded onto Special Branch. I was told to attend the demonstration and mix with the people there. I attended the demonstration and after talking to some of the people there I was invited to a meeting of political activists. I then attended the meeting and became aware, by the end of it, that it was a meeting of the IMG. I told Conrad about this development and he told me to go to further meetings as the IMG was on a list of organisations the SDS were interested in. I do not know where that list came from, although I assume it came from the Security Service.

35. The IMG would have considered me a member of their group, but there was no formal membership subscription or anything like that, though we often had 'whip rounds' for certain causes at IMG meetings. The IMG leadership also had a more exclusive inner council which I was never a part of. The VSC did not really have a membership structure, they were too big and were simply an umbrella group.

36. I was part of the IMG for about 10 months. There was not really a process of becoming a member, I just turned up to meetings and demonstrations on a regular basis and was accepted as a 'comrade'.

37. I have reviewed some of the reporting that has been provided to me in my witness pack to refresh my memory. I noticed that a couple of documents in my bundle appear to have references on them that denote their origin was not the SDS but from the local police divisions, such as MPS-0722099, p.129; MPS-0722099 p.128; MPS-0722099 p.130. That suggests that some of this documentation was received from members of the public or uniformed police officers rather than undercover officers. Also, the language in many of the reports I have been provided does not sound like my form of expression.

[REDACTED]

Some may have been verbal reports that I provided to someone in the SDS office who then re-wrote my account in their own words and attributed it to me.

38. I think a lot of my reporting is not reflected in the documents that have been provided, there would have been a lot more reports. Most of the time I attended a meeting or demonstration I would have submitted a report, this was once or twice a week, so there should be a lot more reports, though such reporting was usually verbal and made directly to Conrad at one of our weekly meetings.

39. I recall on occasion getting a query from the Security Service on a specific issue and writing a response back to them. I cannot see anything of that correspondence in any of the reports I have been provided in my witness pack. Such requests were not made often. Usually requests from the Security Service would come in via Conrad who relayed them verbally during one of our team meetings saying something like: 'Box are interested in this or that' and if I knew anything, I would tell Conrad what I knew at that time.

40. I cannot now recall any particular reporting that is missing, though a lot must be. I attended a meeting of the IMG once or twice a week and a report would have been probably generated thereafter when I reported back to the SDS details such as who was at the meeting, what was discussed and the details of any planned activities of the group.

41. I also note one of the reports in my witness pack [MPS-0738321-CLF] is dated 30 September 1969. I could not have submitted that report at that time as I had already left the MPS by that date. I note it is a report about some photographs. I imagine what happened was that I provided some photographs

[REDACTED]

of individuals in my target group prior to the leaving the MPS. I may not however have been able to identify all the people in those photographs when I submitted them. Probably after I left more information was received by the MPS from another source which identified the people in my photographs and so this report was generated.

Tasking

42. As I mention above, there was not really any tasking in my deployment, we were really just required to go out and mix with people in these groups and report back. The only occasion where I received some direction about my deployment that I recall was when there was a split in the IMG. I had been introduced to the group by a man called Alex Richardson. He and some of his followers split from the militant part of the IMG during my deployment. I informed Conrad of this and he said to stick with the main, more militant, group.

43. When reporting back about my deployment my main point of contact was Conrad. Because of the small size of the SDS, Conrad had close supervision over all of us. He was always available, and gave us his home phone number. If we received any direction, it came from him.

44. I had a lot of discretion as to what to report on, bearing in mind the overall objective of public order. No one knew how to run an undercover squad at that time. There was very little direction, either verbal or written. Conrad might have said: 'If you hear about a certain person or group, let me know', but there was no direction beyond that and nothing in writing.

45. We knew as Special Branch officers that we were always required to record details of the meeting or demonstration we attended: the day, date, time and

[REDACTED]

place. Identities of people attending were always of interest. Special Branch and the Security Service wanted to identify those involved in extreme political activities. Relationships between people in those groups were also of interest to understand the links between them.

46. I was not told how long I would be in the SDS, there was no fixed term. I eventually tired of the work and resigned from the police.

47. As undercover officers we had access to Special Branch files. However, it was unwise to risk the possibility of being seen to enter Scotland Yard to view a file. If I needed to, I could have requested a file and had it brought to our 'safe house'. However, I cannot recall an instance where that was necessary. I may have asked one of the SDS administrators to look up file references for individuals, but I do not recall ever perusing the physical file myself. Some files had a higher security classification and would be restricted anyway. None of the people I associated with in the IMG had such a classification. Researching the individuals I was associating with whilst deployed would not have assisted me in the task of gaining intelligence about public disorder, other undercover officers in different groups may have felt differently.

Premises

48. The SDS had a safe house away from Scotland Yard which I attended several times a week. Conrad encouraged us to do so to keep us engaged during our downtime.

Pattern of life whilst undercover

49. We had a lot of free time during the day as most of the work we did was in the evening. I took up a hobby and would spend an hour or so in the morning

[REDACTED]

doing that before coming into the office. We might also attend museums to fill the time. I would then attend a meeting in the evening which may not have finished until quite late at night. Weekends were usually taken up with attending meetings and demonstrations.

50. I would usually get to the safe house at about 10-10:30 am. There might be a meeting with Conrad where he would express a view on what the Commissioner might have been interested in or if an incident had occurred we may have been asked specifically about it. I would then attend a meeting of the IMG from around 7pm till around 10pm. I recall the IMG would have a meeting, often in a pub, usually on a Thursday where they would discuss the effectiveness of the previous week's demonstration and the planned activities for the next one. If there were no meetings that evening, I would probably go back to my real home at about 5pm. Every weekend Saturday and Sunday there would be demonstrations or meetings which I would attend from perhaps lunchtime till the late afternoon. There was a lot of free time during the day during the week and sometimes Conrad might allow you to go home early, but he was generally keen to try and keep us engaged at the safe house. We might have cooked a meal together or gone for a social meeting somewhere.

51. The work differed from the usual Special Branch work as you had so much more autonomy. In normal Special Branch work you would be rostered to attend public meetings or undertake enquiries. The work on the SDS was much more reliant on one's own initiative and being alert to possible situations where intelligence could be gleaned.

[REDACTED]

52. I would submit reports whilst the details were fresh in my mind, most often verbally to Conrad. He would go around the table at our meetings in the safe house and ask people about their deployments and in particular who was at the meeting and what was talked about. It may have been Conrad who then wrote up the reports, I do not know. There were also occasions when I would put down the information on paper. I would not have seen the final reports written by Conrad before they were submitted. I understood that the reports I provided would have gone to Conrad and from there to the appropriate Chief Superintendent above him and the Security Service. A query might then come back which you would respond to. If I received information about an activity happening in a matter of hours or something requiring urgent attention, I would call Conrad to report it. For example, on one occasion I had been assisting the IMG with sending out some pamphlets and newsletters to their members.

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[REDACTED]

Details as to how HN321 was able to record the addresses of IMG membership comprising approximately 80 individuals.

Conrad later told me that the Security Service were very pleased with that work. I cannot recall any other examples, but I would use my discretion as to whether the information I had was urgent or could wait until our daily meeting.

[REDACTED]

Pay and overtime

53. Serving on the SDS did not impact my take home pay. You accepted you would be doing long hours, but you had plenty of free time during the week to compensate. We were able to claim our expenses, so if we had bought a round of drinks for our group whilst undercover, you could get that reimbursed. As I mention above, a man from the Home Office regularly attended the SDS office and reimbursed us in cash. I also had expenses for my cover vehicle which I got reimbursed.

Reporting on the IMG

54. I have been referred to a Routine Meeting Report dated 18 September 1968 (MPS-0731633 p1) which is a record of a public meeting organised by the IMG involving a candidate for the presidency of the United States of America. I cannot recall attending this meeting but note the report refers to me attending. I do not recall whether this was the first meeting I attended whilst on the SDS. There was a period in which I continued to do some normal Special Branch activities between volunteering for the SDS and actually being deployed. I may have been present at this meeting on behalf of normal Special Branch or the SDS, I do not remember which.

55. I believe it was known by Conrad that the IMG were one of the groups involved in the demonstrations that had been occurring across London. I assume that information came from the Security Service which was why the SDS was interested in the IMG.

56. I have been referred to a Routine Meeting report of 04 November 1968 (MPS-0731634-CEF) which is a note of a private meeting of the IMG concerning the

[REDACTED]

political situation in Northern Ireland. I do not now recall attending this meeting, but assume I did so as I am recorded as being there. I would have submitted an account of the meeting since I was required to account for meetings I attended whilst deployed. The IMG had fraternal relations with the IRA, both being Marxist organisations. I assume the topic of the meeting was put on for IMG members as being of general interest to them. I note this was a reasonably large meeting of 30 people. I imagine I was taken along by Alex Richardson, as he was my main point of contact in the IMG at that time. I understood my role in attending such meetings was to report on what the topic of meetings had been, it was a matter for Special Branch or the Security Service whether that information was of interest. Very often the meetings would be about Marxist ideology, I may not have reported back the details of such discussions in so much detail, but a more unusual topic, such as this one, I might have provided more detail simply because it was out of the ordinary. There was also an interest in the individuals involved in the meetings so I would have provided those details as best as I could.

57. I have been referred to a Special Report of 22 March 1969 regarding a meeting of the IMG at which their support and planned attendance at a demonstration of the Palestine Solidarity Campaign was announced (MPS-0731635, though my copy of this document in my witness pack has no reference number on it). I may have attended this meeting, but I cannot recall it. I note the report is signed on my behalf by someone else, which probably means I relayed the information to someone who then typed it up and signed it. I do not know why a Special Report form was used to report this information

[REDACTED]

nor what Special Reports were used for generally. I doubt this is of much significance.

58. As I mentioned above the VSC was an umbrella organisation of which the IMG formed a part along with many other left wing organisations.

59. My managers were happy with my reporting on the IMG and in general. I also think I was getting good feedback from the Security Service. I would have been told this by Conrad. Perhaps the reason I did get good feedback was that I went further than our brief, for violent disorder, and reported on some other things that the Security Service were pleased about. For example, where I was able to get the addresses of the IMG membership, which I refer to above. I recall having a meeting with a member of the Security Service in a pub with Conrad once, informally. I cannot now recall anything specifically being discussed at that meeting. It may have been organised so that they could identify me for their information (if they had been monitoring the same meetings that I attended and needed to know who was there).

Reporting on the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign "Autumn Offensive 1968"

60. I have been referred to a Metropolitan Police Telegram dated 26 October 1968 (MPS-0730774) which was a telegram sent from a constable to a Chief Superintendent of Special Branch on the eve before the VSC's march and refers to a risk of police coaches on Vauxhall Bridge being sabotaged. I would have called in that information. It is unusual that it is addressed to the Chief Superintendent as ordinarily, as I have mentioned, I would relay any urgent information directly to Conrad and certainly did not have routine direct communication with the Chief Superintendent. The report appears to have been taken by someone in the Special Branch Reserve. The Reserve was a

[REDACTED]

part of Special Branch which was manned 24 hours a day. I imagine someone must have called the Reserve office who then passed on this information. I cannot now recall the circumstances under which this happened.

61. I do not recall attending the meeting from which this piece of intelligence emanated and I do not know whether an attempt to sabotage the police coaches at Vauxhall was made. I do not think the members of the IMG would have actually carried out this threat, they talked a lot about revolution, but actually they were quite passive and intellectual. There were other groups involved in that march, particularly the anarchist groups, who were far more violent, however.

62. I have been referred to a Routine Meeting Report of 12 November 1968 (MPS-0730768-CEF) in which Mr Tariq Ali is recorded as saying that revolution had been a real possibility at the VSC demonstration of 27th October. A number of undercover officers attended this meeting, the reason being that the meeting was probably made up of attendees from a number of different political groups. The undercover officers would have been members of those separate groups and attended in their undercover role to support their cover. Not attending would have undermined their credibility within their target groups.

63. I have been asked whether in my view revolution was a real possibility during the time of my deployment: I never thought it was. The IMG were very sincere in their desire for change in society, but I do not think any of them would have resorted to the kind of violence needed to bring about a revolution. There was certainly a febrile atmosphere on the street at that time, particularly in light of what had been occurring on the continent, but I never thought the IMG or

[REDACTED]

anyone else would be able to start a revolution. I would not have relayed that viewpoint to my managers. I just reported the facts of what happened and was said at these meetings rather than expressing a view.

64. As to whether my managers in the SDS thought revolution was a real possibility, I recall Conrad telling us that the government was concerned about the excited atmosphere on the streets and that they were worried about revolution. I do not think my superiors, in particular Conrad, shared that view, he thought the demonstrations might become more violent and harder to police, but I do not think he thought they would result in revolution.

Report on the Lambeth branch of the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign

65. I have been referred to a Routine Meeting Report of 14th February 1969 which refers to a meeting of the Lambeth VSC (UCPI0000007689-CLF) occurring on the day before. The subject of the meeting is recorded as a demonstration of 16 March. I do not recall attending this meeting. I note I am listed as an attendee so probably did attend although the report is signed on my behalf. As was normal, I would attend VSC meetings and report on who attended, what was said and any planned future activities, one of which appears in this meeting to have been a meeting of the Coloured Peoples Association planned for Friday 21st February. I cannot ever recall attending any of the Coloured Peoples Association's own meetings but would have reported the details of that meeting should it have been of any interest to Special Branch or the Security Service.

66. I am asked whether the Coloured Peoples Association was of interest to the SDS, I do not think so, beyond the fact that they were mentioned at a meeting of the VSC. I do not recall Conrad ever indicating the SDS had such an

[REDACTED]

interest in them. As far as I am aware, they were not really of any significance to the SDS. The SDS were interested in large scale meetings and demonstrations which could not be easily contained; smaller groups were of less interest.

67. I have been referred to a Special Report dated 18 March 1969 about the Lambeth Branch of the VSC including a list of names produced in response to a Chief Superintendent's request for a report. I do not remember being involved in the production of this report and do not know why the Chief Superintendent was seeking such a comprehensive report. The report refers to the VSC becoming increasingly dominated by the IMG to the extent that people had started to drift away from it. I cannot really recall the membership of the Lambeth VSC to say now whether that was correct. I do recall that the IMG were always in attendance at VSC meetings, trying to become the leaders, but I do not think they ever achieved that goal.

68. Special Branch wanted to know who was organising the VSC and their effectiveness. Hence they sought those individuals' names and addresses. It was a standard function of Special Branch to seek this type of information particularly for the purpose of the future vetting of applications for sensitive positions in the civil service.

69. As I mentioned with respect to the IMG, the feedback I received on my reporting was verbal and positive. I think my superiors and the Security Service were pleased with the information I had provided.

70. The demonstration on 27 October 1968 was, I think, well policed because of the information we supplied to the Commissioner. The Commissioner was as a result able to plan the police response to the demonstration. After that

[REDACTED]

demonstration it was decided that the SDS would continue, which highlights to me that the work of the SDS must have been considered successful.

Public Order

71. I frequently saw public disorder whilst serving on the SDS. A tactic which I often saw being deployed by some of the more militant demonstrators was to link their arms and to try to slow or stop the march. This had the effect of holding back a large group of people behind them. The demonstration in front of them would move forward. The police on the outside would be confused by this. The demonstrators linking arms would wait to allow a large amount of pressure to build up behind them and perhaps a 100m gap in front of them and then let go of their cordon and run forwards. This caused everyone behind them to start running and allowed an opportunity for spontaneous violence against property targets, unhindered by an immediate police presence. The police were confused as to what was happening and were unsure what to do. It gave some of the more violent elements of the crowd the opportunity to be outside of police control. Some would come armed with bricks, or whatever, and would hurl these items through shop windows and then disappear back into the crowd.

72. I recall an occasion where this tactic was used at Hyde Park but I cannot recall when. As the crowd surged forward someone saw a Rolls Royce which had been stopped by the passing demonstration. A cry of 'Look! Bourgeoisie!' then sounded out and a lot of demonstrators ran over to the vehicle and attacked it. They wreaked havoc on that car for 20-30 seconds while the elderly occupants of the vehicle looked terrified. The police then caught up and the demonstrators disappeared back into the crowd. I think there were

[REDACTED]

probably newspaper reports about this incident afterwards. I cannot really recall any other specific incidents.

73. I did not participate in any public disorder; I just observed it. I would run along with the crowd after this type of holding technique was used. A lot of the violent elements of the crowd were I think anarchists.

Violence

74. I have mentioned a particular instance of violence to property above, I do not recall seeing any violence to people. I never saw any attacks on police, although some of the protestors at these demonstrations were prepared for it. I recall one person I was marching with on one occasion mentioning he had an iron bar up his sleeve. I think he was prepared to commit some violent act.

75. I was not involved in any violence to persons or to property.

Subversion

76. When I joined Special Branch I looked up the function of the branch in the police General Instruction manual. As I mention above, in that book was listed all the different branches of the police and what they did. I recall the function of the Special Branch was stated to be 'all matters pertaining to the security of the state.' These groups, IMG and others on the far left, were subversive in that they had political ideologies that caused them to believe that the people would be better off if the then government was overthrown by a left wing Marxist or Trotskyist government. Part of the job of the Special Branch was to identify those involved in those organisations.

77. I attended regular lectures by the IMG which discussed the need to overthrow the status quo of government. Of course they understood they could not do

[REDACTED]

this without mass mobilisation. The IMG were very excited by the political climate of 1968 and the activities of demonstrators on the continent. However, the IMG itself lacked the power and numbers to put these ideas into practice. They were subversive in their aims, but could not put those aims into effect. They saw the 27th October demonstration as the prime opportunity to stir the public up, increase militancy and occupy government offices with a view to achieving those aims.

Sexual relationships

78. I did not engage in any sexual activity whilst in my undercover identity.

Other relationships

79. I had been close to Alex Richardson in my target group. He had got me into the IMG, but, as I mentioned, he and some of his followers then split from the main group where I remained. I would not have called him a friend, we had friendly relations, but we only met at demonstrations, not any other times. There was no-one else, really. I got to know people to talk to and got to know them at marches and demonstrations. I would not have regarded them as friends and I do not think they would have thought of me as the same.

80. I did not assume any positions of trust of any kind with any of the people with whom I mixed as an undercover officer.

Criminal justice

81. I was not involved in any criminal activity whilst undercover other than obstruction of the highway, which I would have agreed to do to support my cover identity, perhaps also some fly posting, but I cannot remember any specifics. It was all very minor. I would not have run these activities past

[REDACTED]

Conrad before doing them, I might have mentioned after the event that the group, of which I was part, had been involved in some fly posting. I do not recall him being concerned about it.

82. I was never arrested, charged, tried or convicted of a criminal offence whilst serving as an undercover officer.

83. I never appeared in criminal proceedings as a witness in my undercover identity.

84. I am not aware of the fact of me being an undercover officer ever being disclosed in any such event.

85. I did not provoke, encourage, or cause any other person to participate in any criminal activity whilst deployed as an undercover officer whilst serving in the SDS.

86. To my knowledge, the product of my reporting was never used in support or in connection with a criminal investigation or prosecution.

87. I did not provide evidence for use in any prosecution arising from my undercover deployment.

Other legal or disciplinary proceedings

88. I was not involved in any way with any other legal proceedings whilst in my undercover identity.

89. I was not involved in any way in my undercover identity with any complaint against the police or any disciplinary proceedings.

Legal Professional Privilege

90. I did not receive or become aware of any legally privileged information whilst I was deployed as an undercover officer.

[REDACTED]

Elected Politicians

91. None of the people I reported on were elected politicians in any of the private meetings I attended whilst deployed. Very often left wing politicians would attend and speak at the large public meetings and demonstrations I attended undercover. Their attendance would have been well known and reported elsewhere, including in the media.

The use to which your reporting was put

92. To my understanding the reporting I provided to Conrad was sent to the Commissioner and used to plan his response to policing of these demonstrations.

93. I think that my reporting, like that of the rest of the squad, enabled the Commissioner to be prepared for these large demonstrations. I understood we were not the only source of information he relied on, but in the details we provided, what groups were attending these demonstrations and in what numbers, I think we were successful.

Exfiltration

94. My deployment ended in August 1969. I came to realise that to get in to the IMG any deeper would require me to have a greater understanding of Marxism. I had managed to bluff my way along up to that time, but it was becoming more and more difficult. I also recall that at least one person in the group was becoming suspicious of me. I decided therefore that my deployment had probably gone as far as it could and should come to an end.

95. I do not recall a rule that an officer should serve no longer than 12 months on the SDS.

- [REDACTED]
96. I began to miss meetings and started to drop into conversations that I had a new job overseas ⁶ [REDACTED] That story was my idea and was not really supervised by my managers. I would have discussed the plan with Conrad, but I planned it and worked it out. I recall my managers had wanted me to try and get someone else into the group, however I explained this probably was not possible as I was already viewed with some suspicion.
97. I did not maintain contact with any of my contacts once I withdrew from the group and did not use my cover name again.

Managers and administrative staff

98. I thought Conrad was an excellent manager of the squad. He was always available. We could always contact him and he never minded. He had good leadership qualities and supported his officers in the field. I also remember that he was always willing to defend us. On one occasion I was called into Scotland Yard by a Special Branch Chief Inspector, not in the SDS, who was annoyed by the fact that I had attended a public meeting but had not submitted a report to him. I informed Conrad of the situation and he sorted out the problem and it never happened again.
99. I think Conrad was trying to provide the Commissioner with the intelligence that he needed to meet the concerns of the Home Office.
100. I have been referred to a diagram of a proposed organisational structure for the SDS in a document entitled the 'Penetration of Extremist Groups' (MPS-0724119), the chain of command in the SDS when I was deployed did not accord with that diagram. Conrad was the main point of contact for all of us in the squad and worked with all members whether they were inspectors, sergeants or constables, there was not really a rank

[REDACTED]

structure. To my recollection however, there were two Detective Inspectors and three or four Detective Sergeants. The rest of us were Detective Constables.

101. There were two administrative staff, who I would see at our group meetings. We would all be in one room discussing and contributing information at the same meeting.

Management and Supervision

102. There was very little supervision of the undercover officers and the main point of our management was Conrad. We would have a meeting with Conrad most days in the safe house. If not with Conrad, it would be with the Detective Inspector or Detective Sergeant. If I had any urgent information to pass on I would phone Conrad directly by telephone. Most of the time however I relayed the information I had gathered verbally directly to Conrad in our meetings at the safe house. He was interested in where we had been, who attended the meetings and what was discussed. He might also ask us for specific information which the Security Service or his superiors were interested in.

103. As I mentioned above, generally I had good feedback from my managers about my reporting.

104. There were no arrangements for monitoring my welfare during my deployment. That said, Conrad was always there for us, '24/7'. There was no organised structure for our welfare, except for Conrad. I think this was fine for the squad at that time, it did not need an organised structure for welfare. We had our leader, Conrad, and we went to him if we had a problem.

[REDACTED]

Senior management and oversight bodies

105. There were two occasions when a Chief Superintendent came to see the squad. He did not give us any formal instructions; I think he just wanted to meet the people he was responsible for.
106. As I mentioned we had regular attendances from a man who I understood was part of the Home Office who would come with a briefcase of cash to pay for our incurred expenses. His attendance was really just as a support function though.
107. There was no other attendance from an oversight or regulatory body.
108. I did not get a commendation for my work on the SDS.

Deployment of contemporaries

109. Joan Hillier in the months leading up to 27th October was one of 3 or 4 female Detective Constables on the SDS. I cannot recall exactly, either they were not successful penetrating organisation or Conrad decided not to use them to penetrate such organisations again, but after 27th October some of those officers dropped out of the squad, I think Joan continued to be in the squad, but in a more administrative role.
110. Whilst I served with the SDS there was a Riby Wilson on the squad with me. After I left I think a Ray Wilson also joined.
111. I do not recall if David Fisher used a cover name or what it was. I do not recall a David Fisher at all.
112. I do not recall if Helen Crampton used a cover name, if she did I do not recall what it was.

- [REDACTED]
113. I think Conrad did use a cover name, but he was only involved undercover prior to 27th October 1968. I do not think he was involved undercover after that date. I do not recall his cover name.
114. I am not aware of anyone committing a criminal offence whilst deployed undercover, except some involvement, like me, in some minor obstruction or fly posting.
115. I was not aware of any of my contemporary undercover officers provoking, encouraging or causing a third party to commit a criminal offence.
116. I was not aware of any of my contemporary undercover police officers engaging in sexual activity in their cover identity.
117. I recall being aware of one or two of my contemporary undercover officers being arrested whilst they were deployed on the SDS. I can remember the identity of one of them, I cannot recall who the other was. All I can recall is attending one of our daily SDS meetings and being made aware that a colleague had been arrested whilst deployed. I do not recall what happened afterwards. I think there may have been some discussion in our SDS meeting about what would happen next and whether charges would be dropped, but I am not sure. I do not recall being given guidance on this but we knew as undercover officers that we had best avoid arrest if we could as it could cause difficulties.
118. I assume many of my contemporaries would have been involved in public demonstrations at which disorder occurred, but I am not aware of their involvement in such disorder, violence or other criminal activity.
119. I am not aware of any of my contemporaries reporting any legally privileged information.

[REDACTED]

120. As with my own deployment, I am aware that very often left wing politicians would attend some of the large public meetings and demonstrations at which my contemporaries were deployed. Beyond that, I am not aware of my contemporaries reporting on the activities of any elected politicians.

Post deployment

Period immediately post deployment

121. There was no period of rest following my time in the field as an undercover officer.
122. I was not de-briefed by anyone. When I left the MPS I had a meeting with a non-SDS DI who had me sign the Official Secrets Act.
123. I was not offered any advice or ongoing support by the SDS or MPS following my withdrawal.

Post Special Demonstration Squad Police Career

124. I resigned from the MPS shortly after my deployment finished.
125. There was no long term effect on my welfare from working on the SDS. I took a couple of weeks to get over it, I went on holiday and that was that.
126. I was not aware of any welfare services and support within the MPS as an ex-undercover officer.

Leaving the Police

127. I left Special Branch and the MPS as Detective Constable on good terms, shortly after my deployment ended.

[REDACTED]

Undercover work in the private sector

128. I was not given any instructions or guidance of any kind about working undercover in the private sector or using any part of my cover identity in the private sector before leaving the MPS.

129. I did not undertake any undercover work in the private sector after leaving the MPS.

Any other matters

130. There are no other matters of relevance that I am able to give to the Inquiry.

Request for documents

131. I do have some photographs of the SDS. Some of these were taken in the safe house of the SDS. Some of these were in Scotland Yard. There are three pictures.

132. I also have about six photographs of some of the demonstrators taken by me at the education camp of the IMG I attended whilst deployed. I had taken a camera with me to the camp and took a few photographs of the attendees whilst I was there. I would not be able to tell you who those people were now.

133. I do not have any other documents potentially relevant to the Inquiry's terms of reference.



Diversity

134. I am male and white European.

I believe the content of this statement to be true.

Signed:

Dated: