



J H Maddell Esq CB
Deputy Under-Secretary of State
Home Office
Whitehall SW1

Our reference:
SB/588/UNREG/694

Your reference:
QPE/661/8/5

17 December 1971



P E Brodie Esq OBE QPM

Dear

On 21 December 1970 you wrote giving us Home Office authority to maintain for 1971 certain special payments to cover the activities of one of the Squads of Special Branch.

I am now writing to ask for continuance of these arrangements for a further period. I need hardly emphasise how important it is at the present time for Special Branch to be as well informed as possible of all activities of extremist organisations. During this past year we have witnessed a growth in violence attributable to political extremists ranging from the IRA through to the anarchist Angry Brigade. In between are numerous other political groupings which, when the opportunity arises, are all too ready to promote public disorder.

With the Commissioner I have closely examined the record of work done during the year by this special Squad and we are both agreed that the type of information it obtains enables the uniform branch to plan more effectively to meet public order situations arising from demonstrations than in the years before this Squad was formed; at the same time, the Security Service, which maintains a close and effective contact with those running the Squad, benefits greatly from the intelligence product it secures.

As your correspondence will show, the expenditure for each of the last two years on these arrangements has been on the basis of a calendar year. The Receiver has suggested, and I think you will agree, that it would be best for this to be changed to a financial year like all other police expenditure. This could be brought about by authorising expenditure for a fifteen month period covering the coming financial year 1972/73 and the three months from 1 January 1972 to 31 March 1972. We estimate that expenditure on the arrangements during this period will be £5500.

The Commissioner takes a personal interest in the activities of the Squad and urges most strongly its retention. I should be grateful therefore if you could secure the Secretary of State's authority for the expenditure of £5500 to meet the Squad's commitments.



EXPENDITURE

1st January 1972 - 31st March 1973

(a) Financial year 1st April 1972 - 31st March 1973	£4,500
(b) Three months - 1st January 1972 - 31st March 1972	£1,125
	<u>£5,625</u>
(c) Less money received and not expended at 31st December 1972	300 (approx)
	<u>£5,325</u>
Estimated expenditure for 1st January 1972 - 31st March 1973, say	<u><u>£5,500</u></u>


MEMORANDUMCommander Rodger

1. The current strength of the Special Operations Squad (S.O.S.) is one Detective Chief Inspector, one Detective Inspector (absent at Bramshill Police College June-December 1971), one 1st Class Sergeant, two 2nd Class Sergeants, some nine Detective Constables and two Women Detective Constables, an increase of three officers since the review of November 1970; this has been accompanied by a slight change of rank structure.

2. The Squad, which has now been established for a little over three years, provides advance intelligence on demonstrations by the various left-wing and other extremist organisations, together with general information about persons and groups who have participated or who are likely to participate in these activities. This latter information, as previously reported, continues to prove of increasing value and adds to the wealth of background information which most officers now possess. It also serves to short-circuit enquiries which would hitherto have been both time consuming and difficult to answer.

3. Despite the Squad's increased size and the consequent unavoidable growing awareness within the force of its existence, experience has not so far shown the problems of this to be as great as might have been feared. The need for security on the operational details of the Squad's activities nevertheless remains paramount.

Coverage

4. Organisations penetrated by the S.O.S. are:-

Irish Solidarity Campaign
Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association
Sinn Fein (London)
Anti-Internment League
International Socialists
International Marxist Group
Spartacus League
Red Circle
Vietnam Solidarity Campaign

1A



Friends of China
Marxist-Leninist Workers Association
North London Alliance in Defence of Workers Rights



Women's Liberation Front
St Pancras & Camden United Tenants Association
Hackney United Tenants Ad-Hoc Committee
Claimant's Union

1B

Anti-Apartheid Movement
Action Committee Against Racism
Dambusters Mobilising Committee
Women's National Co-ordinating Committee
Action Bangla Desh
Afro-Asian American Association

5. Information has also been forthcoming on the Black Defence Committee, Black Unity and Freedom Party, Schools Action Union and the Palestine Solidarity Campaign.

6. As can be seen from the above list the coverage effected by this Squad has increased proportionately with its size. Inevitably, through the normal processes of the force, some changes are envisaged and with a small reduction in field officers occurring. It is hoped however that this will not be accompanied by any noticeable decrease in coverage and effectiveness. This continuity has been achieved by a limited amount of 'overlapping' in certain organisations, thereby assuring coverage where essential and providing an invaluable cross-check on information and security.

7. Of the organisations penetrated perhaps the most significant are

1D [REDACTED] and Sinn Fein. It was hitherto felt that these groups, [REDACTED] 1D [REDACTED] would prove highly difficult to penetrate. In the event, however, with good and patient grounding [REDACTED] S.O.S. 1D [REDACTED] have succeeded in these fields. The 'Black Power' and allied organisations remain an obvious problem, although officers have been concerned in organisations having close liaison with such groups, e.g. The North London Alliance with the Black Unity and Freedom Party; International Marxist Group with the Black Defence Committee. [REDACTED]

1E

[REDACTED]

8. During the course of the year the Maoist orientated Irish National Liberation Solidarity Front ceased to be covered by this Squad principally due to the Front's fragmentation in June of this year and its consequent diminished significance.

9. The arrival of a second woman officer has added considerably to the Squad's flexibility, and has proved invaluable in the comparatively recent field of 'Women's Liberation'. The average age of officers employed remains low since they are more readily able to blend into their various groups. Nevertheless, despite their youth, these officers have displayed remarkable astuteness and political awareness. The high proportion of single officers has helped to reduce the inherent social problems encountered by this type of work.

10. Another pleasing aspect of the Squad's operations has been the liaison with the uniformed branch (AS), who have proved highly cognisant of the sensitive nature of material emanating from our officers. Added to this the proven accuracy of the material and our regular contact with the Security Services has led to a speedier dissemination and interpretation of intelligence.

11. With the increased confidence of our officers, a number have attended various conferences and functions outside the Metropolitan Police District. These activities have been threefold; to serve as a catalyst for officers' acceptance, to provide invaluable first-hand experience in depth of their particular organisation and to accrue a substantial quantity of intelligence for all concerned.

12. The early months of 1971 saw no truly large demonstrations apart from the 'Rudi Dutschke' protest march in January which passed off peaceably enough. During the middle of the year following the political upheavals in Pakistan a number of massive demonstrations were held in London by various Pakistan and Bangla Desh supporters. These, without exception, were spectacular in their orderliness and co-operation with police.

13. With the introduction of internment in Northern Ireland on 9 August 1971, after a somewhat aimless period since the cancelled South African 1970 cricket tour, 'the left' found a new 'cause célèbre'. Within a week of this date a 2,500 strong protest demonstration by the various Irish organisations, supported in some strength by the International Socialists and the International Marxist Group, produced a level of militancy which had not been seen for some months, resulting in a number of arrests. Since then the Irish, principally under the umbrella of the newly-formed Anti-Internment League, tried to capitalise and knit that alliance. Their efforts culminated in a demonstration of some 9,000 on 31.10.71, which by contrast resulted in no disorder due mainly to its poor organisation and the adroitness of police action.

14. Shortly after the Anti-Internment League was formed an experienced officer was able to penetrate the ranks of this organisation at short notice and succeeded in producing highly accurate material on its organisation, activities and aims. Although such introduction at short notice is clearly a hazardous move its undoubted success on this one occasion was made more possible by the experience gained during the three years of the Squad's existence.

Accommodation

15. The detached office continues to be of inestimable value in its ability to fulfill the requirements of briefing, communication and security. During the year a second office was taken but relinquished after some eight months when a change of neighbours presented a potential security risk. A search is now being made for suitable replacement premises to obviate the problems of overcrowding.

16. Individual officers continue to have their own cover accommodation which has proved so essential to the efficiency, scope and security of their activities.

Cars

17. Car arrangements have remained much the same as for 1970 with the exception of the introduction of a more sophisticated form of hiring. Throughout 1971 three cars have been on constant hire with a fourth car frequently being hired at week-ends to meet demands and during reduced public travel facilities. The only adaptation within the system has been the hiring since October of a small van in place of one of the cars. This has given greater flexibility to field officers and provided more suitable transport for them when being driven into Commissioner's Office (TR 19/1968/1 refers).

Financial

18. To date £658 is still in hand of the 1971 allocation of £4,000. By comparison with 1970 it will be seen that expenditure has risen by £1,487. This is explained by the increased staffing (up to five additional officers at various times) together with the rental for a second office for the greater part of the year.

19. The present monthly expenditure is running at about £300. This figure is somewhat lower than usual due to the fact three field officers have recently left the squad and their two replacements have not yet become operational. However, they will shortly need rented cover accommodation and this plus the necessity for a second office as soon as suitable premises can be found will produce a figure of about £410 per month. This being so all expenses for the Special Operations Squad for the coming financial year could be met from a budget of £5,000. Statements of account are attached.

Future activities

20. The Irish problem remains the most emotive issue and with the recent introduction of internment a partial fusion of the left has taken place under the banner of the Anti-Internment League. This organisation has plans for a demonstration in London towards the end of 1971 and again in March 1972 and if the situation in Northern Ireland continues on its present increasingly violent course these could well prove highly troublesome.

21. On the economic front, with the unemployment figures approaching one million, there will inevitably be a series of protest meetings and demonstrations. Added to this 1972 will surely see the crystallisation of anti-Common Market activities as fears grow for our sovereignty (by the right-wing) and our take-over by the capitalists (by the left-wing). When these issues become more clearly defined and public awareness increases the inevitable polarisation of opinion on an issue of this magnitude must present an immense potential for public disorder. On this same issue but looking further into the future our eventual entry could well affect the whole character of demonstrations in this country, for with a greater freedom of movement the more violent elements from the continent will link with their counterparts in this country.

22. Any possible settlement with Rhodesia over the U.D.I. question would assuredly provoke a hostile reaction from the Anti-Apartheid Movement and its allied groups and provide a much needed platform for these organisations who have lacked a tangible 'cause' for some time.

23. Of all the traditional fields of protest in that of housing one denotes early moves by the Maoist orientated North London Alliance in Defence of Workers Rights, under the guise of the Hackney United Tenants Association Ad-Hoc Committee, to enlist support to fight forthcoming housing legislation. The Committee hopes to gain wide support in an area which is not unused to such activity. This too may well be troublesome in the coming months and S.O.S. are now well placed to supply reports on developments.

24. Finally, in the field of education, student unrest is growing again and with public attention currently being called to such issues as student's grants, student union fees and allied subjects, there is likely to be a militant student reaction prompted by the usual extremist elements which will further occupy S.O.S. attentions.

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HN332

Chief Inspector

SB

18.11.71.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT

Cash received	£4,000	To: Rent	£3,987.62
Residue of 1970 allocation	971.30½	Electricity	31.04½
		Telephone	246.91½
		Incidentals	46.85
			<hr/>
		Cash in Hand	658.30½
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	£4,971.30½		£4,971.30½
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<u>MONTH</u>	<u>RENT</u>	<u>ELECTRICITY</u>	<u>TELEPHONE</u>	<u>INCIDENTALS</u>
NOVEMBER	73.50	-	-	-
DECEMBER	315.87½	-	48.07½	19.89½
JANUARY	315.17½	2.94½	-	-
FEBRUARY	328.50	4.54	-	15.62
MARCH	333.00	4.27	-	-
APRIL	309.75	-	-	-
MAY	388.50	5.28	87.76	-
JUNE	315.00	-	-	1.12½
JULY	478.83	7.68	-	1.58
AUGUST	347.08	-	37.38	1.32
SEPTEMBER	187.25	-	10.41	5.11
OCTOBER	363.66	2.90	-	2.20
NOVEMBER	231.50	3.43	63.29	-
	<u>3,987.62</u>	<u>31.04½</u>	<u>246.91½</u>	<u>46.85</u>

GRAND TOTAL 4,312.43

BALANCE IN HAND 658.87½

£4,971.30½

57A (CONT'D)

four weekly to monthly where necessary, is running at about £340. However, as will be seen from the foregoing, Flat - 2 is no longer in use, although a search is currently being made for a suitable replacement. Monthly rent for such a flat would no doubt be in the order of £60 which together with one month's deposit would make the anticipated expenditure for November and December - £860. I therefore ask that we may draw the £900 residue of our 1971 budget.

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HN332

Chief Inspector

Special Branch

19 August 1971

MEMORANDUM

19.8.
Commander Cunningham

1. With reference to the Special Operations Squad expenditure:-
2. The balance of cash in hand from the £800 drawn on 21 June 1971 is £78.59. To date we have received £2,300 from the budget for the current financial year.
3. I anticipate that £800 will be 14 required for the two month period ending 31.10.71 and I ask that ████████ be requested to provide this sum. The cash books, docketts and cash balance are available for examination.

J. Amans
Chief Inspector