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B. No. 1 (Plain)

METROPOLITAN POLICE

SPECIAL BRANCH

Spec. Report }

13th day of September 1968

SUBJECT
Larcenies in
East London.

Referring to the attached telephone message received from the crime collator at Wanstead who informed Special Branch of the recent theft in that area of street electric light time-switches and copper sterlising drums.

Reference to Papers

The information was passed to this office very soon after the offences occurred as it was then thought that they could possibly have been stolen to form parts for explosive devices, particularly in view of the forthcoming October demonstration.

I have contacted the officers concerned at Wanstead, Chingford and Waltham Abbey Police Stations and no arrests or recoveries have been made. It appears from their enquiries of both the losers and manufacturers that the larcenies are seasonal and most unlikely to have too sinister motives.

VENNER time-switches (cost £4 each) are in short retail supply at this time of year as their most common domestic use is for attachment to electrical appliances and in particular to storage heaters. The copper drums are pure copper and therefore not a very hard metal. As an outer casing for an explosive device they are most probably too fragile to stand harsh treatment; they are, however, readily marketable at the current high price of scrap copper.

The police enquiries will continue but Special Branch will only be informed if anything relevant transpires.

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Detective Inspector

Submitted: *Cowd Dixon*
Chief Inspector

For CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT