

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Agent-Handling by
F.4. & Metropolitan Police, Special Branch.

Metropolitan Police Special Branch (M.P.S.B.) are currently chiefly preoccupied with the threat to law and order presented by the new revolutionary movements to the left of the C.P.G.B., such as the various Trotskyist, Anarchist and pro-Chinese groups responsible for demonstrations which could easily have erupted into violence along the lines of the Paris 'revolution' of May 1968.

2. To obtain tactical intelligence on the day-to-day activities of these scattered and amorphous groups, M.P.S.B. have resorted to use of primarily short-term and relatively superficial - but none the less effective - resources of the following types:-

- (a) informants, often with a criminal background, paid by results, and working essentially for mercenary motives or because of some hold exercised over them by the Police.
- (b) The 'Hairy Squad', i.e. M.P.S.B. officers, disguised as militant characters, and deployed to infiltrate the trouble-making revolutionary groups.

3. These tactics, improvised of necessity at short notice to deal with riot conditions, paid off handsomely in containing demonstrations when used in conjunction with intelligence derived from other M.P.S.B. and Security Service sources. However, with one or two notable exceptions, these M.P.S.B. informants have not been capable of deep and long term penetration of the revolutionary organisations involved. Admittedly, it is not easy to achieve such penetration, because [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

of the nature, characteristics and structures of the groups

4. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] F.4. policy, [REDACTED] has resulted over the years in deep coverage of the C.P.G.B., and [REDACTED] some coverage [REDACTED] of the Revolutionary Protest factions.

5. In recent times F.4. has achieved an increasingly close rapport with M.P.S.B., with the object of co-ordinating agent coverage and eliminating wasteful duplication of effort. Progress

/in this

in this co-operation, which my predecessor [redacted] did so much to foster, is documented [redacted]

6. M.P.S.B. have tacitly left the C.P.G.B. (both at H.Q. level and in the London District) for the Security Service to cover, partly because they realise that [redacted] the Security Service has coverage [redacted], and partly no doubt because the C.P.G.B. in its quest of a respectable and constitutionally correct image - as expressed in the 'British Road to Socialism' programme - no longer presents a threat of violent revolution. However, M.P.S.B. do help F.4. to some extent [redacted]

7. In the sphere of Revolutionary Protest groups, F.4. and M.P.S.B. co-operate very closely, [redacted] channelling M.P.S.B. [redacted] information to the Security Service [redacted]

8. [redacted] The Security Service considered that being adapted to rather different objectives, the information from Security Service and MPSB agents is [redacted] complementary, and the by-product of each assists the other.

9. The difficulty starts when M.P.S.B. aspires to monopolise the training of Special Branches in the provinces, where M.P.S.B. agent-running and reporting techniques are often ill-suited to local needs and conditions (for instance M.P.S.B. 'Hairy Squad' infiltration is unthinkable outside the vast anonymous conurbation of London), [redacted]

[redacted] Irrelevant [redacted]

F.4.
22 September, 1969.