

Tuesday, 27 April 2021

(10.00 am)

MR FERNANDES: Good morning, everyone, and welcome to the second day of evidential hearings in Tranche 1, Phase 2 of the Undercover Policing Inquiry.

My name is Neil Fernandes and I am the hearings manager. For 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, as Zoom will pick up on all noises and you will be on screen.

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

Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. As at the beginning of every evidential session, a recording is going to be played. For those listening to it for the first time, please listen carefully.

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

1 If I am satisfied that a person may have breached an
2 order, I have the power to certify the matter to
3 the High Court, which will investigate and deal with it
4 as if it had been a contempt of that court.

5 If satisfied that a breach has occurred and merits
6 the imposition of a penalty, the High Court may impose
7 a severe sanction on the person in breach, including
8 a fine, imprisonment for up to two years and
9 sequestration of their assets.

10 Evidence is going to be given live over screens in
11 the hearing rooms. It is strictly prohibited to
12 photograph or record what is shown on the screens, or to
13 record what is said by a witness or anyone else in
14 the hearing rooms. You may bring your mobile telephone
15 into the hearing rooms, but you may not use it for any
16 of those purposes. You may use it silently for any
17 other purpose. In particular, you may transmit your
18 account of what you have seen and heard in a hearing
19 room to any other person, but only once at least
20 ten minutes have elapsed since the event which you are
21 describing took place.

22 This restriction has a purpose. In the course of
23 the Inquiry, I have made orders prohibiting the public
24 disclosure of information, for example, about
25 the identity of a person, for a variety of reasons.

1 These orders must be upheld. It is inevitable that,
2 whether by accident or design, information which I have
3 ordered should not be publicly disclosed will sometimes
4 be disclosed in a hearing. If and when that happens,
5 I will immediately suspend the hearing and make an order
6 prohibiting further disclosure of the information
7 outside the hearing rooms. The consequence will be that
8 no further disclosure of that information may be made by
9 mobile telephone or other portable electronic device
10 from within the hearing room, or by any means outside
11 it.

12 I am sorry if you find this message alarming; it is
13 not intended to be. Its purpose is simply to ensure
14 that everyone knows the rules which must apply if I am
15 to hear the evidence which I need to enable me to get to
16 the truth about undercover policing. You, as members of
17 the public, are entitled to hear the same public
18 evidence as I will hear, and to reach your own
19 conclusions about it. The Inquiry team will do their
20 best to ensure that you can.

21 If you have any doubt about the terms of this
22 message, or what you may or may not do, you should not
23 hesitate to ask one of them, and with my help, if
24 necessary, they will provide you with the answer.

25 Thank you. Do we have HN45 on screen?

1 Is HN45 there?

2 HN45 "Dave Robertson" (called)

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, you were on mute momentarily.

4 Could you confirm, please, that there is no one in
5 the room in which you are sitting, other than
6 the gentleman behind you with the mask?

7 A. Yes, I confirm that.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

9 Do you want to be sworn or to affirm?

10 A. I will affirm.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Then I will ask that you are read
12 the necessary words by Mr Fernandes.

13 (Witness affirmed)

14 THE CHAIRMAN: It must seem strange to be addressed always
15 as "HN45", but I'm afraid it's necessary.

16 I know that because of your recent medical history
17 it is possible that you will need to have a break
18 earlier than the timed break that we're going to have at
19 11.15. If you do need it, please say so.

20 Ms Wilkinson.

21 Questions by MS WILKINSON

22 MS WILKINSON: Thank you, Sir.

23 HN45, as the Chairman has just explained, I shall be
24 asking you some questions, and if at any point you don't
25 understand something I've said, or you want something

1 repeated, or you need a break, please just raise that
2 matter and it will be dealt with.

3 I don't seem to be on the full screen. Is the audio
4 working sufficiently? Can you hear me?

5 A. Yes, I can.

6 Q. As the Chairman also referenced, we shall be referencing
7 your name as "HN45", and that's a cipher that has been
8 adopted to protect your real identity, your cover name
9 having been that of "Dave Robertson" that was used
10 whilst you were deployed undercover many years ago; is
11 that right?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. We'll be using other ciphers, other numbers, in relation
14 to other of your colleagues at the time, and if you need
15 to check who they were, I know that you've got a key
16 next to you, and that's the document by your side, so
17 please refer to that if you need to check who I am
18 talking about.

19 A. (inaudible).

20 Q. Thank you.

21 Now, you made a statement for the Inquiry, dated
22 30 August 2019, in which you answered, to the best of
23 your ability, questions that had been posed. Is that
24 true to the best of your knowledge and belief?

25 A. It is.

1 Q. Your cover name, "Dave Robertson", was not based on
2 the identity of a deceased child, which is a practice we
3 heard about in later years within the SDS. Why did you
4 not use that method of establishing a false identity?

5 A. I just didn't. I wanted to use something that I would
6 respond to -- appropriate.

7 Q. Were you aware of any other colleagues at the time using
8 a different methodology and using the identity of
9 deceased children?

10 A. No, I don't know how many of the others did this.

11 Q. You were deployed undercover with the SDS between
12 October 1970 until there was an incident where you were
13 compromised, and we'll deal with that, in 1973.

14 Your time in the field overlapped with a number of
15 other officers, including ones that we've already heard
16 about in evidence.

17 Do you recall an officer whose cipher was HN348 who
18 used the cover name -- first name, "Sandra"? Do you
19 recall her?

20 A. I do.

21 Q. And do you also recall another of your colleagues,
22 Jill Mosdell?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And we'll see when we look at some of the reports,
25 sometimes your name appears on reports with either one

1 of those names; do you recall that?

2 A. Well, I recall maybe Jill Mosdell. I don't recall
3 "Sandra's" name appearing.

4 Q. May we have a look at one of those reports, actually,
5 just to see the style; and I can ask a couple of
6 questions about how these came to be created. Could we
7 pull up on the screen report {UCPI/10254}, please.

8 We see there -- are you able to see that
9 sufficiently, HN45, from where you are? It may be, if
10 you need to, you could move the chair closer to
11 the screen to see a bit more easily, with the assistance
12 of the gentleman with you?

13 A. Yes, that would be easier.

14 Q. Or the computer, whichever way round it needs to go.

15 Thank you.

16 A. That's a bit better.

17 Q. Is that better? Excellent. We might be able to hear
18 you a little bit more clearly as well.

19 So this was a report about the BVSF. This is
20 the Britain-Vietnam Solidarity Front. And it's dated
21 October 1970, we can see in the top right. And can we
22 see at the bottom right, your cipher has been imposed
23 over the top of what would have been your real name?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And we see that this was about a meeting at a pub in

1 King's Cross. It references, halfway down:

2 "There was no chairman and the only speaker was
3 Al Manchanda, who spoke on the subject of 'Soviet
4 revisionism and collusion with US Imperialists'."

5 And then you conclude with referencing:

6 "No mention was made of any future activities."

7 And the report lists a number of names of people
8 that were present: Al Manchanda, Diane Langford and
9 Sonia Seedo are those that we can see on the page there.

10 And we see that it's submitted, and there's a typed
11 name there -- is that Saunders, chief inspector?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Would that have been Phil Saunders?

14 A. Saunders, yes.

15 Q. And we see a stamp on the left-hand side that
16 says "Box 500"?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Just help us, did you as undercover officers type these
19 documents up, or was somebody else typing them up?

20 A. No, they were typed up elsewhere.

21 Q. So how does the intelligence or the information you've
22 collected get to a typist?

23 A. It -- it was written out in rough, and when there were
24 these meetings during the week, the rough reports were
25 taken away and typed up.

- 1 Q. And did you get to see them again after they'd been
2 typed up?
- 3 A. I can't really recall that. Some may have been --
- 4 Q. -- (overspeaking) -- presumably where there's
5 a signature, we can assume that the signature's been
6 applied after the typing? So, for example, Saunders'
7 signature here would have been written presumably after
8 it had been typed up?
- 9 A. Well, it would have been typed up, yes, and he would
10 have seen it after it was all typed.
- 11 Q. And when you were handwriting it out before it got to
12 the typist, did it look effectively like this, did it
13 include the information that we see in that middle
14 paragraph and the names of the people that you recall
15 being there?
- 16 A. Of course, yes.
- 17 Q. Did you have the reference numbers to hand? We see in
18 the left-hand column it says "reference to papers" and
19 the number's been slightly obliterated by a hole punch,
20 but can you see the "/70/164"?
- 21 A. Well, I can't remember that, but I doubt it very much,
22 because every different thing had a different reference
23 number, and I certainly wouldn't have remembered.
- 24 Q. So is that the sort of detail that might have been added
25 on by the typist in the back office?

- 1 A. It would have been done, yes.
- 2 Q. So -- but the reference in the text of what is reported
3 back about the meeting would have come from you and
4 would have appeared in your handwritten version before
5 it gets typed up?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Thank you.
- 8 You joined -- you were working in Special Branch in
9 the 1960s before moving to the SDS; is that right?
- 10 A. I can't remember the year I joined Special Branch, but
11 it was --
- 12 Q. Don't worry about the specific date, but you'd been
13 working in Special Branch before you joined the SDS; is
14 that right?
- 15 A. Yes, yes.
- 16 Q. And were you asked by a lady called Helen Crampton? You
17 can take the report down now, thank you.
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Were you asked by a lady called Helen Crampton if you
20 might like to join the SDS?
- 21 A. Yes, I was.
- 22 Q. Do you know how come -- how she had come to select you
23 or approach you?
- 24 A. I have no idea.
- 25 Q. And what did you know of this organisation or this unit

- 1 before she mentioned it to you?
- 2 A. Well, not a great deal, but Special Branch was quite
3 a small-knit community and people knew what might have
4 been happening or not happening, although the detail
5 wasn't available.
- 6 Q. So there was an understanding that this unit did exist
7 amongst those in Special Branch?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. And did people know what the unit did?
- 10 A. No, no. Not to -- no, not really.
- 11 Q. Did people know who was in it?
- 12 A. I -- I -- up to a point, yes. There was a lot of --
13 a lot of movement, people coming and going; and at that
14 time, Special Branch was -- the whole of Special Branch
15 was quite a small-knit community, and everybody knew, to
16 some degree, what was happening.
- 17 Q. Do you know the sorts of numbers that would have been in
18 Special Branch back then?
- 19 A. No.
- 20 Q. And in the SDS, would you say the numbers ranged between
21 10 and 12, something like that; those sorts of small
22 numbers?
- 23 A. Well, I can't really recall that to any -- I can't be
24 specific.
- 25 Q. Is it more like that sort of number, or closer to 30/40

1 in the SDS?

2 A. Again, I don't know, because the whole thing was fluid;
3 people were coming and going all the time. And I think
4 there must have been a variance in the numbers of people
5 that were in there.

6 Q. Right.

7 When you were told about the unit and approached by
8 Helen Crampton, what did she explain the role would be?

9 A. I can't really recall what she said to me. It was
10 a long time ago now.

11 Q. Did you know that you were expected to work as an
12 undercover officer?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And it was with that knowledge that you agreed to join
15 the unit?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Were you told what you would be gathering information
18 for, what the purpose of the unit was, when you were
19 joining?

20 A. Well, I was kind of aware of that.

21 Q. What was it?

22 A. Well, it was to provide -- the basis of that unit goes
23 back to the first riots that there were in
24 Grosvenor Square, when the Metropolitan Police were
25 lacking when the serious demonstration went wrong and

1 outside the American Embassy, they got into the park and
2 created mayhem, and the police were unable to deal
3 with it. And they were unable to deal with it at the
4 time because they didn't have sufficient intelligence as
5 to the groups. And I can remember -- I was uniform on
6 that day, and I can remember seeing those people coming
7 up -- I think it was South Audley Street, with great big
8 metal scaffolding poles that they had taken from
9 a building site, chanting "Ho Ho, Ho Chi Min" as they
10 ran up and just scattered the police line outside
11 the American Embassy in Grosvenor Square.

12 Q. So that was the inception for the SDS, as you understood
13 it?

14 A. That's as I understood it.

15 Q. So when you joined, which would have been around about
16 1970, so it was a couple of years on from then, what did
17 you understand the intelligence was being gathered for
18 at that point?

19 A. It was just to assist the Metropolitan Police respond in
20 a way that was appropriate for the policing needs.

21 Q. I think in your statement you said: {MPS/741095/22}

22 "In the early days, we were just trying to
23 counteract people on the streets. Later on,
24 the intelligence was used not just to help with
25 the police response, but to find out about different

1 people's involvement and who was manipulating who."

2 So did it develop? Did the purpose, as you
3 understood it, of the SDS develop?

4 A. I suppose it did, yes. I don't recall that
5 particularly.

6 Q. Those within the unit, were you told to keep it secret
7 from others within Special Branch and members of your
8 family and friends?

9 A. Special Branch was a secret organisation anyway, and
10 everybody in Special Branch was positively vetted,
11 you know. So, by definition, it was a secret department
12 really.

13 Q. And so does that mean that you could speak about the SDS
14 more widely in Special Branch without any difficulty?

15 A. Well, you wouldn't really talk about specifics at all.

16 Q. Was there any particular status that people within
17 the SDS held? Were they held within high regard amongst
18 Special Branch?

19 A. Oh, I don't know. I don't think so.

20 Q. How did the work differ from the Special Branch work
21 that you'd been doing once you joined the SDS?

22 A. Well, in the SDS, the work was much more targeted. When
23 I was on a normal squad dealing with various
24 wide-ranging things, you know?

25 Q. Forgive me, let me understand. You had been in

1 the Special Branch dealing with various things, and in
2 the SDS it became more targeted?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Had you worked undercover at all when you were in
5 Special Branch?

6 A. Prior to the SDS, no.

7 Q. No. So that was quite a change for you, was it?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Before being deployed into the field, did you have any
10 training or given some advice and tips?

11 A. Well, I can't remember, but I can -- I think we went
12 into the office for a while.

13 Q. Into the office. Does that mean the back office?

14 A. The back office, yes.

15 Q. Where was that based?

16 A. I can't really -- there was one down at the back of --
17 oh, I can't remember the police station. It was an old
18 police house.

19 Q. Affiliated to a police station?

20 A. Yes, at the back of a police station.

21 Q. And was that where, for example, the typists would
22 operate and any administration required would take
23 place?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And that was a different location from any safe houses

- 1 where you would then meet once you were in the field?
- 2 A. Completely, yes. That was like the headquarters where
3 all the admin was run from, but it was totally away and
4 divorced from the other safe houses.
- 5 Q. Do you recall how long you were posted into
6 the back office for -- (overspeaking) --
- 7 A. No, I don't recall.
- 8 Q. Would it have been a couple of days, or more like a few
9 months, do you think?
- 10 A. Well, it was more than days, but it may not have been
11 months. But most of the people who went into that job,
12 they weren't -- they weren't lacking in initiative and
13 discretion, they just got on with the job and picked it
14 up very quickly.
- 15 Q. Did you speak to them about how to use your initiative
16 and how to pick it up quickly before you deployed?
- 17 A. I don't recall. I can't recall the specifics, but it
18 was just picked up as you went along. It wasn't
19 difficult.
- 20 Q. All right.
- 21 Did you know that the intelligence that you were
22 going to pick up and gather, obviously first of all you
23 understood it was to help with the police response, so
24 you were passing it back to your managers within
25 Special Branch; is that right?

1 A. Yes.
2 Q. Did you come to learn -- and I think in your witness
3 statement you said -- this is paragraph 73
4 {MPS/741095/19} -- we don't need to turn it up, but you
5 said:

6 "I am sure that much of my reporting was copied to
7 the security service ..."

8 What made you sure about that?

9 A. Well, it would be a stamp on the side, wouldn't it?

10 Q. The Box 500 stamp that we just saw on that document?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Okay. Does that suggest, then, that you did
13 occasionally see the documents once they'd been typed
14 up?

15 A. It varied, yes. I mean, if you weren't there, if you
16 were on leave, it would just be signed by somebody else
17 on your behalf and ... can't be too specific about it.

18 Q. No. But does it accord with your recollection that
19 the general practice was you would write out the report,
20 it would then come back to you in a typed-up version
21 with references --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- and you would sign it?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Thank you.

1 Can I just deal with one specific example of
2 Box 500's involvement in that sense. Could we please
3 pull up on screen {MPS/739241}.

4 I'll give the tab number. This is tab 26, Sir.

5 This does have a very clear reference to Box 500 and
6 your cipher at the bottom right-hand corner. This is
7 a reference to the fact that a letter had been written
8 from Box 500 in January 1972, 14 January, asking for
9 details regarding the employment particulars of -- and
10 the name's been redacted out there -- of a particular
11 person. And by 10 March 1972, information is being
12 reported back, and that was that:

13 "[privacy] is employed as a [privacy] and obtains
14 her work through the [privacy]. As such she does not
15 stay in a particular employment for any length of time."

16 And that's got your cipher on it and HN294's signed
17 it off there, and there's a reference on the side,
18 presumably of the person's name on the "Subject" column.

19 Do you recall being tasked specifying to get
20 information at the behest of Box 500?

21 A. Well, I -- Special Branch did that anyway, in or out of
22 the SDS.

23 Q. Special Branch got information at the behest of
24 the Security Service?

25 A. It's obviously pretty routine. I mean, I can't even

1 tell what that is.

2 Q. No, I can understand that you won't know the person in
3 particular, but it's an example there of a very direct
4 request for information from the Security Service that
5 is fed back within a matter of months to them in answer
6 to the query.

7 Did you understand -- were you given any specifics
8 about when a request had come in from them specifically,
9 or did you just understand everything went back to them?

10 A. I -- I really didn't take much -- much notice. I just
11 did what I was asked to do. And, I mean, I must have
12 been tasked through their letter to do that, and I just
13 did it, and I can't remember.

14 Q. So it wouldn't have come as a surprise to you then to be
15 seeing that report after the typist had typed it up that
16 it was a specific request from Box 500?

17 A. No, not at all.

18 Q. Thank you.

19 Please take that report down now. Thank you.

20 How long did you expect to be deployed as an
21 undercover officer when you joined?

22 A. I don't think there was any time limit on it. I think
23 it probably was governed by how well you were doing or
24 not doing on -- in my case, it came to an abrupt end
25 very quickly.

- 1 Q. We'd understood that there was a -- we've seen
2 documentation referencing 12 months was quite a good
3 estimate of time for a deployment. But by the time you
4 were deployed, was it the understanding that you'd be in
5 the field for quite a lot longer than 12 months?
- 6 A. I -- I don't really know. I can't -- I can't recall any
7 specifics like that.
- 8 Q. Certainly, but -- if you were -- you were certainly in
9 the field by late 1970, and it's not until 1973 that
10 your deployment ended. Was that a surprise to you then
11 that you were still working as an undercover officer?
- 12 A. I wasn't out in the field for three years.
- 13 Q. You weren't?
- 14 A. No. I couldn't have been.
- 15 Q. Right. Well, we'll look at some of the reporting, but
16 it certainly starts late 1970 and ends early 1973, so
17 that would take -- it would be certainly covering
18 a couple of years and longer?
- 19 A. I -- I can't recall that length of time, to be honest.
20 I really can't.
- 21 Q. The pattern -- perhaps then just to help us with
22 the pattern: were you working in this field every day,
23 day in and day out, or were you sometimes working
24 undercover and doing other things as well, maintaining
25 your domestic life?

1 A. No, you didn't -- you didn't mix these things, you know?

2 Q. So when you were deployed, it was all week undercover?

3 Help us, then, with your meetings, and just a sense
4 of how you would stay in touch with people and feed back
5 the intelligence.

6 You were deployed in the field in a cover identity,
7 and you said that you would meet -- the regular meetings
8 I think was where you had said you handed in your
9 handwritten notes, and then the typist would come back
10 with versions for you to look at later?

11 A. I think that's the way it worked, yes.

12 Q. Where did these meetings take place?

13 A. Well, there were these safe houses all over the place.
14 And they changed quite regularly for different kinds of
15 reasons. And, I mean, I certainly can remember at least
16 three or four different ones.

17 (10.30 am)

18 (A short break)

19 (10.50 am)

20 MR FERNANDES: Welcome back, everyone and thank you for your
21 patience. I will now hand over to the Chairman to
22 continue proceedings.

23 Chairman.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

25 As it happens, this is the first time something has

1 happened which requires a restriction order to be made
2 in the middle of a hearing. I have made a restriction
3 order in respect of something that was said by HN45
4 between 10.29 and 10.31. It is more precisely described
5 in the notice which will be posted in the hearing room.
6 What I said in the recording applies. That information
7 may not be broadcast by any means outside the hearing
8 room, and may not be repeated by anyone in the hearing
9 room to anyone outside it afterwards. The consequences
10 of doing so are those that I set out in the recording.

11 HN45, I'm sorry about the interruption. This was
12 bound to happen at some stage, and you, I'm afraid, are
13 the guinea pig for our procedures.

14 Ms Wilkinson.

15 MS WILKINSON: Thank you, Sir.

16 HN45, I'm just going to ask you about safe house
17 meetings again. I'm going to repeat some of
18 the evidence, because we need to make sure that
19 the transcript reflects some of the evidence that you
20 gave back then.

21 Safe house meetings: I think you were saying there
22 were the diary days, when everybody would claim their
23 expenses; and that on those occasions, you and all your
24 colleagues would attend at the safe house meeting, but
25 then there were other days when just different ones of

1 you would attend. So there were sometimes more than one
2 in a week; is that right?

3 A. Yes, that's correct.

4 Q. And you were explaining, I think, that nobody ever
5 missed a diary day because of the expenses.

6 So was it the case that you had to pay out money out
7 of your own pocket for things -- for expenses that had
8 been incurred, and then you could claim them back again?

9 A. Yes, up to a point. Sometimes people were given --
10 I mean, sometimes people were actually given money, hard
11 cash, to sort of pay for your rent, you know, because
12 many people had these, for want of a better word, a duff
13 flat or a room or something; I had one myself. And
14 the landlady would only take cash. But we're talking
15 about £4-a-week rooms.

16 Q. So would it be on those diary days when the expenses
17 were done that you'd be given the hard cash by whichever
18 of your managers were in attendance?

19 A. Yes, because the finance department of
20 the Metropolitan Police gave the managers or the people
21 at headquarters cash and -- and it was accounted for
22 through them so that they could be given the money to
23 pay the rent, and that sort of thing.

24 Q. And these meetings took place in the safe houses. Do
25 you ever remember them taking place at cover addresses?

1 You talked about having a duff address yourself, and
2 I think there's some evidence from one of your
3 colleagues whose cover name was "Alex Sloan" that he
4 recalled perhaps attending your cover address for one of
5 these safe house meetings. Might that have happened?

6 A. I don't recall that.

7 Q. Your -- the meetings where you would attend on the diary
8 days, would they last a few hours?

9 A. Yes. It just -- just would depend on what's to be done
10 and how it was -- what was needed. It was -- the whole
11 thing was very fluid. It was just the whole thing was
12 done until the job was done; and if it needed longer, it
13 took longer, and if it didn't, it didn't.

14 Q. And were you in regular contact over the phone with your
15 managers or the back office in addition to these
16 meetings?

17 A. Yes --

18 Q. So if there was something you needed to pass back, you
19 could pass it back to your managers?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Did you have the home telephone numbers of your
22 managers, or were you only ever in contact with
23 the back office?

24 A. No, I didn't have any personal phone numbers. In fact,
25 we didn't have mobile phones in those days.

1 Q. Would you just use a telephone box?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Presumably -- and I think you reference this in your
4 statement. You said you were a close-knit group.
5 You've talked about it being quite a small unit:

6 {MPS/741095/11}

7 "... [it was] a close knit group and we trusted each
8 other. We would have had general conversations about
9 what we were up to during our deployments."

10 Does that sound right?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And so when you all got together and you were sitting
13 around in your safe house, were you chatting about
14 things that had gone well and things that had been a bit
15 nerve wracking for you, and sharing that sort of
16 experience amongst your colleagues?

17 A. Pretty well, yes.

18 Q. If we try and picture it, you're constantly deployed in
19 this false identity, as are all your colleagues. When
20 you get to sit in a room together, you must feel
21 relieved, and you're able to drop your guard a bit and
22 chat about things a little bit more openly, and release
23 a little bit of the frustrations, presumably?

24 A. No, not necessarily. Special Branch officers are
25 renowned as "zip mouths".

- 1 Q. Zip mouths?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Is that a phrase that you were all known as?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. And so what were the sorts of things that you would talk
6 about in terms of your deployments and sharing
7 information?
- 8 A. I really don't know. Just anything and everything
9 really.
- 10 Q. If you'd come -- if there had been a close shave, might
11 you have said to your colleagues, "You won't believe
12 what happened the other day"?
- 13 A. Probably.
- 14 Q. And if somebody had been tested in another way, perhaps
15 if there had been some suggestion of somebody trying to
16 make a move on somebody, or some sort of intimacy being
17 suggested, might that have come up?
- 18 A. I don't quite understand that.
- 19 Q. If somebody had -- if there was a suggestion that
20 somebody was under pressure to begin a relationship, or
21 somebody had made a sexual advance to one of your
22 colleagues, might they have said, "Oh, you'll never
23 guess what happened the other day"?
- 24 A. I didn't come across that.
- 25 Q. You were deployed with I think a number of colleagues at

1 the time in the field. We've discussed the name
2 Jill Mosdell?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And we've discussed HN348 was deployed in the field
5 during the currency of your deployment. Her first name
6 was "Sandra"?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. There was also, for example, 347. His cover name was
9 "Alex Sloan". Do you recall him? Yes? 347.

10 A. Oh yes, yes.

11 Q. Do you recall him?

12 A. I remember him, yes.

13 Q. And also, for example, in the field -- and I'll give you
14 the real name, because he's known by his real name,
15 Mike Ferguson was an undercover officer who was
16 deployed, I think overlapped with you for a little
17 period; do you recall him?

18 A. Yes, he was -- he was known as "Gimley".

19 Q. And he was, I think, involved in something that was a
20 relatively hot topic at the time.

21 Can I just ask you to pause there for a moment,
22 please, and we might just go into break-out rooms again.

23 Thank you.

24 MR FERNANDES: Good morning, everyone. The time is now

25 11.00 am. We'll take a short break and resume again at

1 11.10 am.

2 (11.00 am)

3 (A short break)

4 (11.06 am)

5 MR FERNANDES: Welcome back, everyone, and thank you for
6 your patience. I will now hand over to the Chairman to
7 continue proceedings.

8 Chairman.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

10 On this occasion, no restriction order will be made.
11 What you said, HN45, was not in the least bit out of
12 order, and the objection to it which came from
13 the CL team should not have been made.

14 We'll continue as normal.

15 A. Thank you.

16 MS WILKINSON: HN45, we were there talking about safe house
17 meetings, and this is the last aspect I wanted to deal
18 with on this topic. We talked about some of your
19 colleagues at the time, and we were asking about
20 a specific colleague who we're referring to by use of
21 his real name, Mike Ferguson.

22 Now, at that time, he was deployed into a group and
23 reporting on a gentleman called Peter Hain, who was
24 involved in quite a high profile campaign, wasn't he, to
25 do with the Stop the Seventy Tour, and must have been

1 within your colleague's knowledge that there had been
2 a number of rugby fixtures influenced and cricket
3 matches influenced at the time? Did you discuss what he
4 was learning about on the ground during your safe house
5 meetings?

6 A. I can say never.

7 Q. Never? Never raised the Stop the Seventy Tour at all or
8 anything to do with the cricket matches?

9 A. Not to my knowledge.

10 Q. Your cover identity, as we've heard, was
11 "Dave Robertson", and you had come up with a cover story
12 that you were from Scotland and worked as a driver for
13 a garage; is that right?

14 A. That's right, yes.

15 Q. I think you went to the steps of visiting the garage
16 regularly, even though you hadn't actually revealed to
17 anyone that you were deployed with where that garage
18 was?

19 A. That's correct, yes.

20 Q. Why did you need to go to the garage regularly?

21 A. Just to find out for myself that nobody had been round
22 there asking, because I -- the person who ran that
23 garage was a personal friend of mine --

24 Q. And just moving on to your cover address, you had taken
25 a cover address -- I think you called it a "duff flat",

1 was the phrase that you all used at the time?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And we know the specifics of that one, because you had
4 to write it on a document that you handed in when you
5 were attending a study class, and that was flat 15 at
6 287 West End Lane?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Do you recall that?

9 And I think you used to say that before or after
10 attending one of the meetings of the group that you were
11 infiltrating, you would go to your cover address?

12 A. That's correct, yes.

13 Q. Had you been advised to do that?

14 A. No.

15 Q. To take that step?

16 Where did you pick that idea up from?

17 A. From myself.

18 Q. Is this an example of the initiative you were
19 referring to earlier?

20 A. Initiative and discretion.

21 Q. And did you know whether your colleagues used to do that
22 or not?

23 A. I don't know what they did.

24 Q. I think you said as well at the time you were single,
25 and so you were able to stay overnight in different

1 flats as required. Were you ever tasked to stay in
2 other SDS cover accommodation?

3 A. Yes, I was, because, being single, they sometimes wanted
4 somebody to be there because of the stuff that was in
5 there and security.

6 Q. Would that have been the safe houses you were
7 referring to?

8 A. Yes, yeah.

9 Q. Did you change your appearance to grow a moustache and
10 change your hair?

11 A. Yeah -- well, I grew long hair, yes.

12 Q. But you didn't have any documents to support your cover
13 identity, you didn't have a driving licence or anything?

14 A. Absolutely nothing.

15 Q. Others of your colleagues did at the time. I can give
16 you the numbers to look up on the list, if it helps you,
17 but were you aware that some of your colleagues that you
18 overlapped with did have driving licences in their fake
19 identities?

20 A. I -- I didn't know that, because when I was there,
21 nobody had -- to my knowledge, had duff driving
22 licences. I had nothing at all. Absolutely nothing.

23 Q. Right towards the end of your statement, you reference
24 the fact you would have liked to have had some --

25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. -- sort of false documentation?
- 2 A. I mean, it would have been a bit more professional to
3 have had some documents at the time, to confirm your
4 alter-ego, you know?
- 5 Q. In what circumstances would you have been able to
6 produce them?
- 7 A. Well, I don't know, but it would have been better to
8 have them than not to have them.
- 9 Q. Were you ever tested? Were you ever quizzed on your
10 identity?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. In what circumstances?
- 13 A. I can remember one occasion where -- I can't even
14 remember which group it was. It was of no
15 consequence -- where they got hold of them and several
16 of them sat round me and gave me a very personal
17 face-to-face grilling, which I came out of all right.
- 18 Q. Asking about details of your background, or suggesting
19 you were a policeman?
- 20 A. They didn't know who I was. And in those days, it
21 wasn't just the police who were doing that, there were
22 lots of other organisations doing the same thing.
- 23 Q. Infiltrating groups?
- 24 A. I don't know if they were infiltrating them. Well, they
25 may have been. But there were other people looking at

- 1 them, for whatever -- (overspeaking) --
- 2 Q. And are you saying that that made people alert, and so
- 3 they would quiz -- they quizzed you?
- 4 A. Well, most of the people that I've met were paranoid
- 5 about being infiltrated. It was their whole being,
- 6 you know, wondering who was -- who was going to be
- 7 looking over their shoulders at them.
- 8 Q. And how did you reassure them that you were
- 9 "Dave Robertson"?
- 10 A. Just -- just spoke to them, you know? Just -- I can't
- 11 remember specifically, but I'm quite good at holding my
- 12 own.
- 13 Q. Did you talk about the driving that you did at
- 14 the garage?
- 15 A. Not a lot, no. I tried to keep away from that --
- 16 Q. Did you use to drive different vehicles in case anybody
- 17 saw you?
- 18 A. I didn't -- I never drove a vehicle when I was on there.
- 19 Never.
- 20 Q. Did any of your colleagues drive vehicles in their cover
- 21 identities?
- 22 A. Not to my knowledge.
- 23 Q. Do you know what SDS cars would be used for then?
- 24 The budget shows that there was a --
- 25 A. As far as I can remember, there were no cars.

1 The office may have had a couple of cars, hire cars, but
2 you -- you couldn't be driving around in a -- in a car
3 in an undercover name and you risk getting stopped by
4 police and having to produce your real name, you know?
5 It just didn't work like that.

6 Q. And what would the office have been driving hire cars
7 for?

8 A. I don't know. The office used to have a couple of hire
9 cars. I don't know whether to get them home at night or
10 whatever, I don't really know. But they could never
11 ever have gone public with that car, if they did have
12 a car.

13 Q. You were ultimately tasked, when you were finally put
14 into the field, to infiltrate -- or you did report on
15 Maoist groups. Was that a specific targeting and
16 tasking when you were given your role?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Why did you understand that that area of politics needed
19 to be reported on?

20 A. Well, I didn't select it to be reported on, it was done
21 for me. Obviously the research was done, I don't know,
22 elsewhere, and they just felt these were the fields that
23 they needed to look at.

24 Q. And was that -- was that tasking given at the level
25 of -- if I use the names Phil Saunders and the cipher

1 294; was it given at that level, or was it given at
2 a higher level, when you were told what you had to do?

3 A. No, it was given at that level.

4 Q. That level.

5 And were you told specifically what group meetings
6 to start attending?

7 A. I can't recall. A lot was left to your own initiative
8 and discretion. You know, they may have had some
9 pointers from -- from the office.

10 MS WILKINSON: Sir, I'm conscious that we've got to the time
11 of the scheduled break, but in light of the fact that
12 we've had some other breaks, Sir, is it a matter as to
13 whether we can check whether people are content to move
14 on.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm going to assume that the shorthand
16 writers are content to continue, but we will have to
17 have a break at a convenient time some time before
18 the midday break.

19 MS WILKINSON: Thank you.

20 Can I just check then, is the next break 12 o'clock,
21 unless we're told differently?

22 Well, then, HN45, one of the documents I'd like you
23 to have a look at, just in terms of how much information
24 you'd had before you were deployed, is this document,
25 {UCPI/34339}, please.

1 Now, this is an exhibit that's been produced by
2 a lady called Diane Langford, HN45. And she recalls you
3 because she was part of a group, as we know, the Women's
4 Liberation Front, also the Britain-Vietnam
5 Solidarity Front and the Revolutionary
6 Marxist-Leninist League. And she has this note amongst
7 her records, and this was a document that you completed
8 and supplied either to her or one of the others of
9 the group. Do you remember this?

10 A. No, I don't remember that. I'm not even sure that's my
11 writing or not.

12 Q. Well, it's certainly got your name correctly written,
13 hasn't it, the cover name you were known as,
14 "Dave Robertson"?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. And it seems to have your address correct: flat 15 --

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. -- 287, West End Lane, NW6?

19 A. That's right, yes.

20 Q. And it's, when you are joining study classes, you're
21 obviously asked what of this political background have
22 you read; and there's a list there given of some,
23 I understand, well known texts in this field.

24 A. Yeah, I mean, I -- I don't really remember this document
25 at all. Not one bit.

1 Q. But it doesn't strike you as strange, does it, that you
2 might have had to supply this sort of documentation?

3 A. No, it's quite possible --

4 Q. And when asked have you attended any Marxist-Leninist
5 classes before, the answer is given there:

6 "Yes, [at] 58 Lisburne Road [from] 1970 [onwards]."

7 That was the address that was the home address of
8 Mr Manchanda and his wife, Ms Langford; is that right?

9 A. Well, if that's what it says, you know, I have got no --
10 I can't remember what it was.

11 Q. Had you done quite a lot of reading on the topic area
12 before you were deployed?

13 A. Again, I can't -- can't recall. I wouldn't have done
14 a great deal of reading. I would have just done enough
15 reading to get me by.

16 Q. So when you were, for example, quizzed as you gave us an
17 example of before, and reassured people that you were
18 "Dave Robertson" with your Scottish background,
19 presumably this is what would help you support that?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. Some knowledge of this sort of text?

22 A. Yes, I suppose.

23 Q. And did you also give -- were you able to help with
24 this sort of contextual knowledge about the political
25 situation when HN348, cover first name "Sandra",

1 deployed? She recalls you giving her some sort of
2 introduction into the political field. Does that accord
3 with your recollection?

4 A. I -- I may well have done, because -- because I would
5 have been taking an interest in it so I could at least
6 speak about it. Maybe not in depth, but to have some
7 sort of knowledge of it.

8 Q. Did you understand what the reason for an infiltration
9 into Maoist groups was in terms of their -- any threats
10 to public order or state security?

11 A. Well, I didn't make those decisions. They -- they came
12 from somewhere else.

13 Q. Did you ever discuss it with any managers?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Were you ever given a definition of what "subversion"
16 meant?

17 A. Well, I knew what it meant myself, but no.

18 Q. Were you ever told about what "extremism" meant?

19 A. Oh, I know what extremism is, yes. But it was just all
20 part and parcel of the whole -- the whole package.

21 Q. Were you ever lectured or guided by your managers on
22 the threats posed by the groups that you were
23 infiltrating?

24 A. That I can't recall. I tend not to think -- no, and
25 I don't -- can't really recall.

1 Q. Were you ever -- and this can be taken down now. Thank
2 you.

3 Were you ever told what sort of intelligence to
4 gather, what you needed to make a note of and recall to
5 go in your handwritten notes?

6 A. No, that was left to your own initiative and discretion.

7 Q. Were you ever told what not to gather?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Or what you shouldn't be reporting?

10 A. I mean, if you reported it and it wasn't required, it
11 was thrown away. But I -- I didn't -- it wasn't my
12 decision as to what was relevant or wasn't, I just
13 reported what I did and it was dealt with at a higher
14 level.

15 Q. Can we have a look at an example of a report you
16 submitted at the end of 1970, {UCPI/11738}, please.

17 Now, this is a group we heard about through
18 a witness yesterday, Diane Langford, who said that
19 the Revolutionary Marxist-Leninist League, which I think
20 was the RMLL, in the left-hand corner there, was
21 a relatively small group. Does that accord with your
22 recollection?

23 A. I can't -- I can't recall what that group was all about.

24 Q. In this instance, the group is hosting a farewell party
25 for some members of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam

1 who had been visiting the UK. Do you recall attending
2 this event?

3 A. No, I don't.

4 Q. And you report the timings of various speeches that had
5 taken place. You report that, halfway down the second
6 paragraph:

7 "Of those only about eight were from groups other
8 than the RMLL, Britain-Vietnam Solidarity Front and
9 the Women's Liberation Front. Manchanda openly
10 expressed disappointment at the small attendance."

11 A. Well, yes, if that's what I wrote, yes. But at many of
12 those things, small attendance was the norm, rather than
13 the -- you know, it was quite often that a lot of these
14 things took place and the number of people who were
15 there were sometimes of no relevance at all.

16 Q. Why did you need to report back how many numbers were
17 there? Why was that important to Special Branch?

18 A. Well, it's just to let them know. Just to give somebody
19 some assessment of what the group was all about.

20 I mean, if they had 100 people there, it would be quite
21 important. And by the same token, if they only had
22 three people there, that would be important. It would
23 give somebody the ability to make an assessment of what
24 the group were about.

25 Q. And at the end of that third paragraph, we can see:

1 "Following this ..."

2 A gentleman called:

3 "... Gajawan Bijur spoke and presented a bouquet of
4 flowers. Finally, a young American named [privacy]
5 presented a number of books of English folk-songs."

6 Why did you need to report back about flowers and
7 books being presented?

8 A. Because that's what happened.

9 Q. So your recollection is you would report back everything
10 that happened at a meeting?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And this would all appear in handwriting and then come
13 back to you fully typed up?

14 A. That's right, yes. I mean --

15 Q. We saw earlier the example of the person whose
16 employment was sporadic and you'd been asked by Box 500
17 to get some information about that. That was about
18 someone's personal job and the frequency of their
19 employment. Were you ever told not to record certain
20 personal information?

21 A. No.

22 Q. So as far as you were concerned, everything was fair
23 game for reporting?

24 A. Yes, and somebody else could sort out what was important
25 and what wasn't.

- 1 Q. And the "somebody else" sorting it out would be after it
2 had been typed up?
- 3 A. I -- I really don't know at what stage that would have
4 done.
- 5 Q. All right.
6 This report can be taken down now. Thank you.
- 7 You recall in your witness statement that you did
8 have access to Special Branch records and about groups
9 and people for the purposes of your work at the SDS.
10 What was that for?
- 11 A. Well, it was just all part and parcel. It might be
12 helpful to get a file up to have a read of it, to see
13 what could be gleaned, to see if what you were doing was
14 relevant or irrelevant.
- 15 Q. And they would be the files about the people in
16 the groups that you were infiltrating?
- 17 A. It just depends. There were all kinds of files.
- 18 Q. And where were they held?
- 19 A. Well, they were all held in Special Branch.
- 20 Q. So would you go back --
- 21 A. No.
- 22 Q. -- into the office to view these, or would they be
23 brought to your safe house?
- 24 A. They would be brought to the safe house.
- 25 Q. So you might say on one day, "Can you bring the file

1 about so and so, I need to have a quick look"?

2 A. Yes, but that didn't happen very often.

3 Q. But you had access to it if you needed it?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And presumably all your colleagues had the same access,
6 did they?

7 A. Absolutely, yes.

8 Q. Was that encouraged by management?

9 A. It was just part of being a Special Branch person.

10 Q. The -- can I ask you to have a look at report
11 {UCPI/1057}, please. This isn't that report. This is
12 11738.

13 Could we please bring up report {UCPI/10567}.

14 It's tab 7, Sir, for your file. Thank you.

15 This was a meeting. We can look at the -- at
16 page 3, it's got your cipher on it, if we need to
17 {UCPI/10567/3}.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Thank you.

20 But going back to page 1 {UCPI/10567/1}, we see that
21 this was a meeting that had taken place at 58
22 Lisburne Road in NW3, and 14 people were present. It
23 was this group again, the Revolutionary
24 Marxist-Leninist League.

25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Three and a half hours in the home of Abhimanyu
2 Manchanda and his then wife Diane Langford.
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. Were you given guidance about whether to attend meetings
5 in people's homes?
- 6 A. No. Not that I recall.
- 7 Q. Was it encouraged?
- 8 A. No, nothing was encouraged. A lot was left to your own
9 initiative, to go out there and do -- do what you could.
10 And I never went to anybody's home unless I was invited
11 there. I never pushed myself to go there, because I had
12 to have been asked to go there.
- 13 Q. So on the face of it, you must have been asked to attend
14 this meeting. There were 14 people there.
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. And the object of this meeting, as we see at
17 paragraph 3, was to "plan RMLL activities for 1971", and
18 that would include reference to the Women's Liberation
19 Front, the BVSF and the Friends of China.
- 20 Why had you been invited to help plan activities for
21 the RMLL? Why had you been invited to attend?
- 22 A. Well, I don't really know.
- 23 Q. Had you already become quite a trusted member of
24 the group by then?
- 25 A. Well, I think so. Otherwise they wouldn't have --

- 1 wouldn't have asked.
- 2 Q. How had you -- how much time did you used to spend at
3 their home? Once a week --
- 4 A. Only -- only as necessary.
- 5 Q. Did that look like once or twice a week, or once
6 a month, something like that?
- 7 A. After 50 years, I've got no idea.
- 8 Q. You reference the fact that you recall you once babysat
9 for the child that Mr Manchanda and Ms Langford had?
- 10 A. Yes, I did.
- 11 Q. And was that at their home address, as you recall it?
- 12 A. Well, it must have been.
- 13 Q. How did that come about?
- 14 A. Well, he just -- he just asked me on one occasion and
15 I -- I couldn't get out of it. They weren't away very
16 long. And to this day, I can't even remember seeing
17 the child. I think the child slept in a different room
18 and they were back fairly quickly, and that was it.
- 19 Q. Were you given any guidance about whether you should
20 become as close as this to the subjects that you were
21 reporting on, whether you should be left in charge of
22 a child?
- 23 A. No, it's just -- it just -- just happened.
- 24 Q. You developed a friendship as well with
25 a Mr Gajawan Bijur, didn't you?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And he ran a bookshop in Camden, the Banner bookshop?

3 A. That's right, yes.

4 Q. Can we pull up, please, report or memo {MPS/730516}.

5 This is tab 24, Sir, for your reference.

6 Now, this is a memo talking about Banner Books, and
7 it's effectively a strategy document for what was to be
8 done. It references at paragraph 1:

9 "Banner Books', the well known left wing bookshop
10 has, since it was opened in 1968, become one of
11 the principle outlets for the dissemination of official
12 Peking-line literature ..."

13 And it's run, as we can see there, by Gajawan
14 V Bijur, "a leading Maoist in his own right"?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. There's reference at paragraph 3 to the fact that:

17 "Bijur has recently opened a second bookshop in
18 Brixton to which he wishes to devote more of his time
19 and is currently looking for a suitable 'comrade' to run
20 the one at 90 Camden High Street."

21 And this is where, on the face of it, you come in,
22 HN45, because at paragraph 4 it says:

23 "By coincidence, he has asked DC [HN45] of
24 the Special Operations Squad to take it on, or to
25 recommend a reliable substitute. (In the course of his

1 penetration of Maoist groups, DC [HN45] is becoming
2 a confidante of Bijur). Bijur would like the position
3 filled by 14th February, 1972."

4 It goes on:

5 "Clearly it would be neither practical nor prudent
6 for our officer to run the bookshop on a permanent basis
7 but there are certain advantages in his offering to run
8 it temporarily, say for about a fortnight."

9 Could we scroll down on the screen, please.

10 And this document sets out what those advantages
11 would be:

12 "(i) It would entrench our officer in Bijur's esteem
13 and probably make him acceptable in most Maoist circles.

14 "(ii) He would become privy to the inner workings
15 and policy of 'Banner Books'.

16 "(iii) He would probably have access to records and
17 mailing lists of persons of interest to Special Branch.

18 "(iv) He would be able to provide a plan of
19 the bookshop and would have access to the keys of
20 the premises."

21 Now, ultimately, you went to work at Banner Books
22 for a while, didn't you?

23 A. Not really, no, but I just used to go there, I wasn't
24 working.

25 Q. Would you help? If Mr Bijur wasn't there, would you

- 1 help look after the shop in his absence?
- 2 A. No.
- 3 Q. So you were never there alone in the shop?
- 4 A. No.
- 5 Q. Did you ever have access to the records that
- 6 the commander said that this would be an opportunity for
- 7 you to --
- 8 A. No, I didn't.
- 9 Q. Did you ever have access to a plan of the bookshop?
- 10 A. Not to my knowledge, no.
- 11 Q. And what about the keys? Were you ever given keys to
- 12 get in and out?
- 13 A. I can -- I can't recall. In fact, I don't think I ever
- 14 had keys to the shop. I'm pretty certain I had no keys
- 15 to the shop.
- 16 Q. So on the face of it then, this document, in terms of
- 17 the opportunity this might present, didn't really come
- 18 to fruition?
- 19 A. No, it didn't.
- 20 Q. Did you ever come to learn that there was a fire at
- 21 Banner bookshop?
- 22 A. I can't recall that.
- 23 Q. Somebody apparently died in that fire. Does that -- do
- 24 you recall that event at all?
- 25 A. No. If somebody had died in a fire at the bookshop,

1 I would have remembered that for sure. And as far as
2 I can recall, I was -- I didn't know there was any fire
3 at the bookshop. Certainly not in my time.

4 Q. Can we have a look at a paragraph of your witness
5 statement now, please, looking at the groups that you
6 targeted and the nature of these groups.

7 If we have on screen, please, {MPS/741095} at
8 page 8, please, {MPS/741095/8}. This is paragraph 29,
9 the latter part of 29. So we're looking at the top of
10 the page, please.

11 You are listing here the groups that you were
12 involved in. In fact, if we go to the previous page --
13 forgive me, if we go to the previous page, we can just
14 read that paragraph {MPS/741095/7}:

15 "Having looked through the documents that I have
16 been shown, I recall some of the names of particular
17 groups but I cannot remember details about them.
18 I recall the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign, but this was
19 an umbrella name for lots of groups. I also recall
20 the Indo-China Solidarity Committee and the Communist
21 Party of Great Britain (Marxist-Leninist)."

22 Then you say you also recall:

23 "... I may also have been involved with
24 the Revolutionary Marxist-Leninist League,
25 Friends of China, British-Vietnam Solidarity Front,

1 the Marxist-Leninist Workers Association, the Hackney
2 United Tenants Ad-Hoc Committee and Indo-China
3 Solidarity Conference."

4 And you go on to explain that:

5 "... there was significant overlap between
6 the attendees at meetings of these groups ..."

7 And you can tell from looking at the reports when
8 you wrote your statement, in particular you see that:

9 "... Abhimanyu Manchanda and [privacy] played
10 central roles in many of them."

11 Was that your experience, that groups listed there
12 were groups that had a common ethos, and therefore had
13 a lot of shared membership?

14 A. Yes. The same people were just going round from group
15 to group really.

16 Q. And would you therefore say that all of these groups had
17 at their core a Maoist political leaning?

18 A. Yeah, pretty well, yes.

19 Q. And is that why you would have been part of, or
20 reporting on, the Marxist-Leninist Workers Association
21 and the Hackney United Tenants Ad-Hoc Committee?

22 A. I mean, there were so many various organisations at the
23 time that it was difficult to keep up with all of them.
24 The same people kept cropping up in them, some more than
25 others. Some of these groups were just handfuls of

1 people. And in their own way, a lot of them were of no
2 relevance.

3 Q. And to those people, the same sort of people that you
4 were seeing in these groups, they would obviously see
5 you at the meetings and think you were just one of their
6 group turning up at these various different meetings for
7 these slightly varying causes?

8 A. That's right, yes. They were glad -- they were just
9 glad that some people went along to the meeting.

10 Q. Can we have a look at report -- and we'll just have
11 a look at a few example reports of you reporting on this
12 broad umbrella group -- {UCPI/10254}, please. If
13 I don't say it, it's always because there's five zeros
14 beforehand. I apologise to the technicians.

15 This is tab 3, Sir.

16 This was, I think, the first meeting that we had --
17 I think we looked at this briefly earlier on. This is
18 an example of you reporting on the BVSF, and we can see
19 there the names, Manchanda, Langford and Seedo.

20 How did you know this meeting was taking place?

21 It's the first report that you -- that we have with your
22 cipher attached at the bottom. How did you know to go
23 along to this meeting at that time?

24 A. I mean, the date on that is October 1970, and I really
25 have no idea, just looking at that. It is of -- I just

1 can't even remember anything about that at this stage.

2 It's such a long, long time ago.

3 Q. Had somebody done some research for you, perhaps, and
4 told you that you should turn up? Or is that down to
5 you to find out what to do on the ground?

6 A. Well, I may well have found out myself that the meeting
7 was going on. I -- it is quite -- entirely possible.
8 And I just can't -- can't really recall it --

9 Q. All right.

10 A. -- in any --

11 Q. The next report then -- tab 4 in your bundle, Sir -- and
12 reference on the screen {UCPI/11737}, please. This is
13 two or three weeks later. This is the RMLL. And we can
14 see there, third line down, that it's just 12 people
15 that are present.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And the chairman and only speaker was Mr Manchanda, and
18 he delivered a long lecture. You were there for three
19 hours. There was some discussion -- public discussion,
20 and then various people gave their views. And you list
21 the people that were present.

22 How had you come to know about this meeting going
23 on?

24 A. I mean, again, the date on that is -- what is it? 1970?

25 Q. Yes.

1 A. I mean, I -- I really can't recall anything at all about
2 this, and how I found out about it or didn't find out
3 about it. It's very, very difficult to try and relate
4 this to anything at this stage.

5 Q. To help jog your memory a little, if it does, we
6 understand that the RMLL was a smaller group of people
7 that really read into the subject matter and may have
8 even operated as something of a steering committee for
9 other groups, like the BVSF and like the Women's
10 Liberation Front. Does that accord with your
11 recollection of what this group was about?

12 A. I have no recollection of what this group's about at all
13 really. It's -- you know, I reported on lots of
14 meetings and things, and they're just a blur now.

15 Q. All right.

16 A. And this means absolutely nothing to me.

17 Q. We'll persevere with another couple of reports, in case
18 that helps your recollection.

19 {UCPI/21998}, please.

20 This is tab 8.

21 Here you are reporting on the Communist Party of
22 Britain (Marxist-Leninist). How did that differ from
23 the group that we've just seen a report about?

24 A. I really don't know. I mean, a lot of the same people
25 flitted in and out of all these organisations.

- 1 Q. If we scroll down, we can see the people attending this
2 meeting. Thank you.
- 3 Do we see the name there Gajawan Bijur?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Al Manchanda?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. And just turning over the page, please, to page 2, at
8 the top, {UCPI/21998/2}, Diane Langford and Sonia Seedo
9 and Harpal Brar, which was a name we'd seen earlier in
10 the documents as well. Is that what you're referring to
11 about the attendance of the same people
12 -- (overspeaking) -- name is different?
- 13 A. I mean, I can't remember those people particularly, but
14 I can remember the name Sonia -- is it Seedo? But
15 I can't remember who or what she was. Alex Tudor-Hart,
16 I recognise the name, but what -- in what relevance,
17 I just can't recall this.
- 18 Q. And as far as the name "Al Manchanda" was concerned, how
19 did you come to write the name "Al" instead of
20 "Abimanyu"? Where did you pick that up from?
- 21 A. Because he was referred to as that.
- 22 Q. Who by?
- 23 A. I really don't know, but I just knew him as -- people
24 called him "Al".
- 25 Q. People called him "Al".

1 Do you recall anybody calling him "Manu"?

2 A. Yes. Called all sorts of things. But I just can't be
3 too specific about that. Call him "Al", "Manu",
4 that's ...

5 Q. Can I deal with one other instance of this same sort of
6 attendance of people but a very differently titled
7 group.

8 Tab 10, Sir.

9 And on the screen {UCPI/10569}, please. This is
10 the Palestine Solidarity Campaign.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. So, differently titled from those that we'd seen. But
13 do we see at the bottom of the -- this first paragraph
14 that at this annual conference, there is representation
15 from two affiliated Maoist organisations, and there's
16 the British Vietnam Solidarity Front referenced and
17 the Communist Party -- the "G" appears to have been
18 crossed out; was that a correction you might have made?

19 A. Where is that?

20 Q. On the penultimate line of paragraph 2. Does it seem
21 a bit crossed out there? Perhaps it doesn't matter.

22 Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist); and
23 the chairman was a man called Fawzi Ibrahim, a member of
24 the executive committee. That name we've seen in other
25 reports. Again, is that an example of the same sort of

1 groups attending at all these meetings?

2 A. Yes, that name means absolutely nothing to me at this
3 stage.

4 Q. Can we go on to page 3 of this report, please,
5 {UCPI/10569/3}. Paragraph 10 we see there:

6 "The BVSF and [the Communist Party of Great Britain
7 (Marxist-Leninist)] tried hard to assert their influence
8 on [this group], the [Palestine Solidarity Campaign] but
9 they were largely unsuccessful since neither
10 organisation is popular with the Arab members.

11 Manchanda had attended the meeting in the express hope
12 that he and his organisations might gain some control on
13 the Executive Committee, but the only votes which he and
14 [privacy] gained were from members of his group."

15 And we can see, if we scroll down the page, that
16 name "Ibrahim", the name "Manchanda" and the name
17 "Seedo"; and the name "Diane Langford", and indeed
18 "Norman Temple"; do you remember him?

19 A. No. I mean, there weren't too many people there.

20 Q. Why were you reporting back about the influence or not
21 that Manchanda had in this group?

22 A. Well, it just may well have been of interest to find out
23 what people were doing, or, more importantly, what they
24 weren't doing.

25 Q. Why was it valuable to find out what people weren't

1 doing?

2 A. Well, that was not my decision, that's further up
3 the line. But I just reported what I saw and heard and
4 they could -- the senior management could make their own
5 decisions on it.

6 Q. Next report, please. And this is a report of a meeting
7 where a number of matters arise. So let's just have
8 a look at this one in some detail, please. It's tab 14
9 and the reference is {UCPI/11741}.

10 Now, this is a meeting of a group that we've seen
11 already that you seem to report on regularly. And this
12 was a meeting in March 1971, so you've been, on the face
13 of it, reporting on these people and involved with them
14 for some months by this point. Does that accord with
15 your recollection?

16 A. Sorry, can you ...?

17 Q. By March 1971, you'd been in the field a number of
18 months reporting on this group. That sounds right,
19 doesn't it, from the reports?

20 A. Yes, it would have -- yes.

21 Q. And you here are at a home address, we can see from
22 paragraph 2. This is a meeting on a Saturday, 13 March,
23 at the home address of "[Privacy]". And this appears to
24 have been an extraordinary meeting; and it appears to
25 have lasted from 1.30 in the afternoon to 10.30 at

1 night.

2 A. That was on a Saturday.

3 Q. Yes. So it was a long meeting. Do you remember it?

4 A. I don't -- I can't recall very much about this meeting

5 except, as a bit of light relief, somebody played

6 the guitar and set Chairman Mao's speech "Take not

7 a needle and a thread from the masses", and that was

8 sang to the group. And that's about the size of it.

9 Q. So you remember that interlude, as it were, in

10 the course of this long meeting --

11 A. I remember the guitar player.

12 Q. So you remember that there was this meeting then to be

13 able to recall that? You've noted here that it was

14 attended by 17 people?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Your cipher again appears at the end of the report. So

17 do we understand, if it's got your cipher on it, you --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- were present and you were the person supplying this

20 information?

21 A. The reason that I remember this meeting is because it

22 was on a Saturday, and it was a -- during the day. And

23 they tried to get as many people to attend these things

24 to -- so they could discuss all sorts of things. And

25 that's why I remember that one in particular, because it

1 was a Saturday.

2 Q. And so that was unusual?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And indeed, it says it was "an extraordinary meeting"
5 that had obviously been called for a purpose.

6 We see at paragraph 3 your note of the purpose of
7 the meeting was -- and you quote there:

8 "... 'to cut down to size' the organisation's
9 leading personality A Manchanda ..."

10 And you there note:

11 "... whose offensive manner, dogmatic attitude,
12 bullying techniques and general inefficiency have become
13 too much for even his admirers to swallow."

14 Where was that language coming from, HN --

15 A. I mean, I would have picked that in amongst the group,
16 it's as simple as that.

17 Q. Picked up what?

18 A. Pardon?

19 Q. What would you have picked up from the group?

20 A. Picked up what the object of the meeting was.

21 Q. Did you not know about it in advance?

22 A. I -- I can't recall what I knew in advance or not.

23 Again, we're 1971.

24 Q. And what about this phrase to "cut down to size"? Where
25 had that phrase come from?

- 1 A. Don't know.
- 2 Q. And then the description of Mr Manchanda's behaviour and
3 attitude, where had that come from?
- 4 A. Again, I don't know. There was a lot of in-fighting
5 amongst themselves that I took no part in.
- 6 Q. How did you consider his manner? Did you consider his
7 manner to be offensive and his attitude dogmatic
8 yourself?
- 9 A. I didn't -- I didn't really think anything about him at
10 all.
- 11 Q. And so these descriptive words and adjectives aren't
12 yours; you think you're here reporting the views of
13 certain people in the group?
- 14 A. Yes, I mean, I didn't really get deeply personal with
15 any of those people, I just picked up what I -- I found
16 from people at the thing, and just dealt with it and
17 reported it, and tried to put it into some semblance of
18 order.
- 19 Q. The --
- 20 "Initially, Mr Manchanda [was to take] ... the chair
21 but because of the nature of the business to be
22 discussed it was decided that he should vacate
23 the chair, and [so somebody else was] ... elected [for]
24 chairman ... [of] the meeting."
- 25 It appears that what then took place is that people

- 1 gave speeches or discussions and delivered positions
2 from documents that they had prepared in advance, and
3 that they read from documents for some time. Do you
4 recall being asked to prepare something in advance of
5 the meeting?
- 6 A. Absolutely not.
- 7 Q. Did you turn up with any documentation?
- 8 A. I -- I wouldn't have done that for anybody.
- 9 Q. When you realised what this meeting was designed for,
10 some form of attack and almost to depose the leader, did
11 you think about leaving?
- 12 A. No. No, I didn't. I just reported things as they were.
13 I didn't really go into an in-depth analysis of who was
14 saying what to who and why, and why people were arguing.
15 I just was able to stand back and take a dispassionate
16 view about the whole thing.
- 17 Q. Did it become obvious that there was going to have to be
18 a vote and you were going to have to take sides?
- 19 A. I don't know --
- 20 Q. Did you think about leaving at that stage?
- 21 A. Pardon?
- 22 Q. Did you think about leaving the meeting at that stage,
23 where you were going to have to take sides or influence
24 a vote in this meeting?
- 25 A. To be totally honest, I've got no real recollection of

1 that. You know, the -- the minutiae, the detail of it,
2 I just cannot recall it after all this time.

3 Q. Paragraph 6 of this report, page 1 again, please,
4 {UCPI/11741/1} -- just bring that back up on screen.
5 Thank you. Can you just scroll down. Thank you.

6 You write there:

7 "Manchanda, in his defence, launched into
8 a characteristic diatribe"

9 Was that your choice of phrase there, HN45?

10 A. Well, I would think so, yes.

11 Q. "... against certain members of the RMLL, particularly
12 [Privacy and Privacy] and spoke for two hours, mainly
13 spent in reading from a prepared statement ..."

14 It goes on:

15 "The nub of his defence ..."

16 And the use of the word "defence" there suggests he
17 was very much under attack. Was that the impression you
18 got at the meeting?

19 A. If that's what I said there, yes, it must have been at
20 the time. But again, I just can't remember the -- all
21 the detail of this sort of thing. I just reported it at
22 the time while things were still fresh in my head. And
23 I got out and would have made notes at the time,
24 you know, away from that. But I never really went in
25 and analysed things to any great depth.

1 Q. "The nub of his defence [he says] was that he had
2 nothing to answer; everything he had done had been in
3 the interests of the organisation and the working class.
4 He felt constrained, however ..."

5 And you note that he had to plead ill health in
6 dealing with the accusations during this meeting, that
7 he produced his diabetic's card, that he referred to
8 the recent birth of his daughter. And you note there
9 that his supporters -- this is about fine lines up:

10 "... his supporters agree that a proper pride in
11 one's offspring is understandable, they consider that
12 Manchanda's constant stream of [Privacy] anecdotes is
13 insufferable."

14 Again, was this a view you held?

15 A. I just made my own analysis of it and wrote it down.

16 Q. And was this your analysis, that his anecdotes were
17 insufferable?

18 A. Well, yes. I mean, I didn't really get involved too
19 much to the extent, but I had to make some sort of
20 analysis.

21 Q. It goes on:

22 "They are not really convinced either that his claim
23 of sending his wife to work while he stays home is
24 a 'practical example of women's liberation', is entirely
25 virtuous."

1 What did you think, that he was staying home looking
2 after their daughter whilst Ms Langford went out to
3 work?

4 A. I don't know. I really don't. I can't recall that at
5 all (inaudible) that.

6 Q. Paragraph 7 on the next page, please, {UCPI/11741/2}:

7 "There then followed a general discussion with
8 [Privacy] speaking in Manchanda's defence. [Privacy]
9 read a copy of a letter she had previously sent to
10 Manchanda making a very personal attack on the private
11 morals of [Privacy] arising from an incident that had
12 taken place some time previously. This reduced
13 [Privacy] to tears."

14 Do you remember what that was about?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Can I suggest something to you? Might it have been
17 about an allegation that a female in the group had been
18 the subject of attempted rape by a male in the group?

19 A. I know nothing of that --

20 Q. And that she had written about that in a letter to
21 Mr Manchanda, and that that's what was being raised, and
22 caused another person in the group to be reduced to
23 tears, and that's your reference there?

24 A. Yeah, I -- I have no -- if -- if the subject of rape had
25 come up, I would have picked up on that. But obviously

- 1 it didn't, to me.
- 2 Q. Can you rule out that that's what this matter was about,
3 50 years later?
- 4 A. Well, that's just conjecture. I can't say.
- 5 Q. What was the -- what was the very personal attack on
6 private morals about?
- 7 A. Again, I don't know. It's been such a long, long time
8 ago --
- 9 Q. Can you remember why somebody was reduced to tears? You
10 remember the music being played --
- 11 A. No.
- 12 Q. -- this person was obviously upset.
- 13 A. I can't recall any of this to any great extent.
- 14 Q. Paragraph 11, please. {UCPI/11741/2}:
15 "The informant's personal view ..."
16 That's you, isn't it, HN45? You're the informant in
17 this report?
- 18 A. Yeah.
- 19 Q. "... is that whether or not Manchanda is expelled
20 the damage to the RMLL is irreparable. Apart from
21 Manchanda there is no one with sufficient personality to
22 hold the organisation together and if his critics lose
23 the [Privacy] day they have said too much for him to
24 suffer their continued presence."
- 25 A. Yes, I -- that's my -- that must have been my view at

1 the time. And I have no -- no problem with that.

2 Q. Do you remember ultimately that there was a vote to ask

3 Mr Manchanda, and indeed Diane Langford, to withdraw

4 from this group?

5 A. No, I can't -- can't recall that.

6 Q. Do you remember voting?

7 A. No, I didn't vote at anything.

8 Q. You never voted?

9 A. No.

10 Q. In any of these meetings?

11 A. No. I avoided that sort of thing.

12 Q. How did you avoid it in a group of --

13 A. Just didn't do it.

14 Q. -- 14 people?

15 A. For whatever reason, I didn't vote on anything.

16 Q. Would you constantly abstain?

17 A. Pardon?

18 Q. Would you constantly abstain, then, when votes took

19 place?

20 A. I don't -- I really don't know. I mean, this is going

21 back so long that I just can't place these events in any

22 sequential order, or what I did do or didn't do -- or

23 what I did do or didn't do. But I didn't really get

24 involved in these things, because it wasn't my place to

25 do that.

1 Q. Your place because you weren't a true member of
2 the group, you were just an undercover officer?

3 A. That's right.

4 Q. Do you remember whether your colleagues used to vote in
5 meetings?

6 A. I don't know.

7 MS WILKINSON: I'll come back to that. I think we're just
8 going to have a very short break -- oh, in fact, no,
9 it's a proper break now. I do apologise.

10 It's 12 o'clock and it's break-time now. So we'll
11 pick up again after the lunch break, if that's okay.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Ms Wilkinson, roughly how much longer do you
13 have?

14 MS WILKINSON: I have probably half an hour, 20 to 30
15 minutes.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: So we should then finish by not too long
17 after 1 o'clock?

18 MS WILKINSON: Yes.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Allowing for the ten-minute gap at the end?

20 MS WILKINSON: Yes, quite.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: HN45, we have a quarter of an hour break now.

22 Are you content to continue until shortly after
23 1 o'clock to finish your evidence, or would you prefer
24 us to stop at 1 and then start again at 2?

25 A. No, I have no problems. I will go to the end.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

2 Quarter of an hour's break.

3 A. Sir.

4 MR FERNANDES: Good afternoon, everyone. We will now take
5 a break. May I remind those in the virtual hearing room
6 to remember to join your break-out rooms, please.
7 The time is now 12.05 pm, so we shall reconvene at
8 12.20 pm.

9 Thank you.

10 (12.05 pm)

11 (A short break)

12 (12.20 pm)

13 MR FERNANDES: Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome back.

14 I will now hand over to the Chairman to continue
15 proceedings.

16 Chairman.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

18 Ms Wilkinson.

19 MS WILKINSON: Thank you, Sir.

20 Could I ask us to please look at a paragraph from
21 your witness statement, HN45. This is reference
22 {MPS/741095} at page 13, please, {MPS/741095/13}. I'll
23 give that reference again, in case it assists
24 {MPS/741095/13}. Thank you very much.

25 I'm looking at paragraph 53. We just heard you

1 reporting on the internal division within the RMLL, and
2 Mr Manchanda's ultimate suspension from the group and
3 your analysis of that passed back to Special Branch,
4 HN45.

5 Here at your statement, you say this:

6 "I have been asked whether my supervisors concluded
7 that I no longer needed to report on the Revolutionary
8 Marxist-Leninist League ... after the group was damaged
9 irreparably by a loss of faith in Manchanda's
10 leadership. I have no memory of my supervisors'
11 response to this but the documents indicate that
12 I continued to report on their activities and the group
13 subsequently changed its name. I only did what I was
14 asked to do so I assume that I was still required to
15 report on them. If my supervisors did not want me to go
16 to these meetings, they would have said so and there
17 would have been discussion that reports on this group
18 were no longer required."

19 Moving on to the next page, please, {MPS/741095/14}:

20 "I do not know why they would still have wanted
21 information about the RMLL after Manchanda left but they
22 must have felt it still contained people of interest.

23 "I can see from the documents that the RMLL
24 re-formed under [Privacy]'s leadership. I cannot
25 remember what view I formed on the risk of subversion

1 under [Privacy]'s leadership and whether I expressed
2 this to my supervisors. With the benefit of hindsight,
3 I'm not convinced that the group posed a threat of
4 subversion or revolution under either [Privacy] or
5 Manchanda's leadership given how low the membership was
6 but I suspect this may not have been appreciated at the
7 time."

8 Can I also just highlight two other aspects of your
9 witness statement. I don't need them to be brought up
10 on screen. At paragraph 68 {MPS/741095/18} you say you
11 can't recall seeing any Maoists committing public
12 disorder whilst you were deployed "but I may have just
13 forgotten over the years".

14 At paragraph 69 you say that your recollection is
15 that "the Maoists were generally not violent".

16 That overview of those extracts from your witness
17 statement, HN45 -- and that can come down now, thank
18 you, the statement -- that overview suggests, in
19 accordance with your analysis in that report we saw,
20 that you weren't convinced that you needed to keep
21 reporting back about these groups.

22 Did you have a discussion with your managers saying,
23 "Is there something else I should do? Why do I need to
24 keep reporting about this group"?

25 A. I can't recall that. In -- in those days, when you're

1 of a lower rank, it's not -- not your remit to question
2 your managers on that.

3 Q. Did you feel that your time, every day, for weeks and
4 weeks, was being well used whilst you were reporting on
5 this group, this fragmented group that posed no threat?

6 A. I mean, I didn't analyse things like that. I was just
7 -- it was just part of the job that I was doing at
8 the time. It was as if I was on any other department in
9 Special Branch. It was just the same sort of thing and
10 I carried on doing it until I was told to stop.

11 Q. Can I just ask you a little more about -- we saw in that
12 earlier report the language that you used in reporting
13 back about Manchanda's demise in that group. Can I ask
14 you just to have a look at another report.

15 Behind tab 13, Sir, in your bundle.

16 And on the screen, please, with the following
17 reference {MPS/739236}. This is a report where you are
18 solely reporting back information about the private
19 circumstances of Mr Manchanda and Ms Langford, and you
20 refer to the fact that, at paragraph 2, Mr Manchanda:

21 "... now considers the position to be a full-time
22 one and has awarded himself a small weekly payment out
23 of the organisation's funds. It is believed to be in
24 the region of £3 or £4. His wife, Diane Langford, works
25 full-time as a temporary typist through the Argylle

1 Staff Bureau, 18 Tottenham Court Road ...

2 "Manchanda considers that this is a practical
3 experiment in the field of Women's Liberation as he
4 remains at home to look after their young baby, born in
5 [Privacy] 1970, while his wife is out working."

6 Did you consider that it was appropriate to report
7 this amount of personal detail about their lives?

8 A. I just reported what -- the information that I gleaned.

9 It was down to somebody else to either write it or scrap
10 it.

11 Q. Did you consider that you were writing -- that there was
12 an element here -- and looking, perhaps, back with
13 the benefit of hindsight -- an element of sexism by
14 depicting this as a decision that Manchanda had made, to
15 send his wife out to work as a practical experiment,
16 rather than it being a decision all of Ms Langford's own
17 making?

18 A. I really have no comment to make on that. I mean --

19 Q. No comment on whether there was a sexist bias to this
20 report?

21 A. I mean, bringing sexism into -- which is a very bland
22 ordinary report, I just have no opinion on that, and
23 I don't think it is sexism.

24 Q. Do you -- and I will find -- yes -- the reference.

25 Could I just ask to have up on screen report

1 {UCPI/21998}, please.

2 This is behind tab 8.

3 If we just have a look at paragraph 5, please.

4 This is a meeting where you referenced that
5 the meeting was attended by members of the Post Office
6 Workers Union, who had appealed for some money, and
7 there was permission given to them to make a collection
8 at the end of the meeting, and you add this detail:

9 "Most of the Post Office workers were coloured and
10 from time to time gave the clenched fist 'Black Power'
11 salute. They may also have been responsible for
12 the distribution of a leaflet published by the Black
13 Workers Co-ordinating Committee ... which attacks the
14 Industrial Relations Bill and calls on workers to unite
15 in the fight ahead."

16 Again, with the benefit of hindsight, looking back,
17 do you recall that you were being asked to include
18 details about people's race in reports?

19 A. That didn't come into it. I just reported it as it was
20 at the time.

21 Q. And why did you need to report that the Post Office
22 workers were "coloured"?

23 A. I don't know, I just did, you know, because they were,
24 and it was unusual to have people from that union,
25 the Post Office Workers Union. I'd never come across

1 them before and I just reported it as it was.

2 Q. Do you recall ever having training at that stage as to
3 how to react, or have any type of race training as to
4 what was appropriate and what was not appropriate to
5 note about people?

6 A. Race -- race wasn't a problem in my day, and there was
7 no training whatsoever. I never -- I've never heard it
8 mentioned until now.

9 Q. And in what way was race not a problem in your day?

10 A. Well, I don't think it was a problem. That's my
11 personal opinion.

12 Q. Can I now move on to the ultimate conclusion of your
13 deployment.

14 And this report can come down now.

15 Can we have up instead report -- I'll get
16 the reference -- behind tab 34 with the reference
17 {UCPI/16247}.

18 Now, there came a time when your deployment ended
19 unexpectedly, didn't it, HN45?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And I think you initially thought that might have been
22 in December 1973, but as we look at this report, you
23 recall it was an incident that took place at a meeting
24 at the LSE, the London School of Economics?

25 A. That's right, yes.

1 Q. And this building here that you're referring to
2 the meeting taking place, the Clare Market Building,
3 Houghton Street, that was part of the LSE, wasn't it?

4 A. I -- it was. I can't remember exactly, but it -- it was
5 part of the LSE. It was up a flight of stairs.

6 Q. If we look at the second page of this report, please.
7 {UCPI/16247/2}. I'll just bring it up myself.

8 This was a report -- in fact, next page -- forgive
9 me -- page 3 {UCPI/16247/3}.

10 This was a report -- at the bottom we can see your
11 cipher and that of Jill Mosdell's name appears at
12 the bottom of this report.

13 A. I mean --

14 Q. If we could just scroll a little bit further down
15 the page, just to help you, HN45, and then I'll ask
16 about it.

17 I think page 3 then.

18 A. Are you saying this is the time when I had the trouble?

19 Q. Yes. And do you know what, I may --

20 A. That's -- that's not -- that's not the same time at all.

21 Q. Well, I'm just trying to help you with the timing, and
22 I think I've got the right report. 16247 in the bottom
23 right-hand corner, yes. {UCPI/16247/2}. Tab 34.

24 What I'm trying to help with is the people who were
25 present and who you were with that day. So it is on

1 page 2 that we see your cipher and the name
2 Jill Mosdell.

3 Thank you very much to the technicians for bringing
4 that up. Thank you.

5 And we can see there you're present at this meeting,
6 HN45, and there's Jill Mosdell's name appears with you.
7 Can you see also in that body of paragraph 12 the other
8 following persons present at the meeting? There's
9 Mr Manchanda, Ms Langford and then there was somebody
10 called Ethel, and the surname's not being mentioned for
11 privacy reasons?

12 A. Well, at -- at the time that that incident happened with
13 me, I didn't report on anything, and Jill Mosdell wasn't
14 there. I walked up into a meeting room up the stairs,
15 and that's when I came face-to-face with Ethel and
16 I left. I never attended any meeting like that and
17 I didn't put a report in, and --

18 Q. Right.

19 A. -- Jill Mosdell wasn't there.

20 Q. So what we're about to deal with is the event of your
21 compromise and ultimately your withdrawal from
22 the field.

23 Now, you recall that that may have been in
24 December 1973, but after this report in February, which
25 is the only report that bears the name Ethel here, there

- 1 don't appear to be any further reports from you
2 reporting on these groups, which might mean that this
3 was the occasion when your deployment came to an end.
4 Does that help with your recollection? Can you
5 positively rule it out?
- 6 A. When my deployment came to an end, I was there on my
7 own. I hadn't done anything. I just walked into
8 the place and then that incident happened, and I walked
9 out of the place, no reports done, nothing at all,
10 you know, so this can't be the same time.
- 11 Q. Might Jill Mosdell have stayed and continued writing
12 into the --
- 13 A. (inaudible) she wasn't there --
- 14 Q. She wasn't there.
- 15 A. (inaudible) --
- 16 Q. Right, well, let's deal with your recollection.
17 On the event of the ultimate compromise, you went
18 into a meeting that you recall taking place at the LSE.
19 Was it an evening meeting or a daytime meeting?
- 20 A. No, evening, I think.
- 21 Q. It was evening.
22 And had you gone there with any colleagues?
- 23 A. No.
- 24 Q. What was the group that you were reporting on or
25 expecting to report on that day?

- 1 A. I can't remember. I can't remember at this time. It
2 was quite a big meeting, and I just went along and I --
3 I can remember going into that place, going up some
4 stairs and walking into this big room when I saw Ethel,
5 and that's when that happened, and I turned round, went
6 out, down the stairs and I walked at high speed away
7 from there for about ten minutes. And there was no --
8 that I can recall, no reporting, no anything, because
9 I didn't have time to do it.
- 10 Q. You refer to a lady called Ethel. Having reflected on
11 all the documentation that has been ultimately provided
12 to you, do you now recall that you knew Ethel was Irish?
- 13 A. I -- I can't really recall. I didn't know her second
14 name. I had only met her once.
- 15 Q. Just limiting it to the question that I'm trying to ask
16 from you. Do you remember that she was Irish?
- 17 A. I can't recall that.
- 18 Q. And you saw her there. Did she recognise you first or
19 did you recognise her first?
- 20 A. She looked at me and --
- 21 Q. -- (overspeaking) --
- 22 A. -- (inaudible).
- 23 Q. What did she say?
- 24 A. Do you know what she said?
- 25 Q. Tell us.

- 1 A. "Here's Scotland Yard come to take us away". Her exact
2 words, in quite a loud voice.
- 3 Q. And you were not with anybody, but there were other
4 people present at the meeting?
- 5 A. Well, the place was full of people.
- 6 Q. How many people there?
- 7 A. I don't know. A lot.
- 8 Q. And she said in a loud voice, "Here's Scotland Yard come
9 to take us away"?
- 10 A. Yes, something like that, or very close to it.
- 11 Q. You must have panicked?
- 12 A. I don't panic, I just take steps to ameliorate
13 the situation.
- 14 Q. And what step did you take?
- 15 A. I went up to Ethel and I pretended to give her a hug and
16 I whispered in her ear and I said -- I can't remember
17 exactly what I said to her. I said, "I'm getting out of
18 here now, say as little as you can about me", and left
19 her and went down the stairs at high speed.
- 20 Q. Did you say you pretended to take her hand?
- 21 A. I didn't take her hand.
- 22 Q. Oh, sorry. You went up to her and what did you say?
- 23 A. I whispered in her ear --
- 24 Q. -- (overspeaking) --
- 25 A. -- pretended to give her a kind of a hug and I whispered

- 1 in her ear, "Just -- just say nothing".
- 2 Q. And how did she react when she'd just been shouting that
- 3 you were from Scotland Yard? Did she let you approach
- 4 her and whisper in here ear?
- 5 A. Of course she did, yes, and off she went.
- 6 Q. And off she went, or off you went?
- 7 A. And off I went, you know?
- 8 Q. And what did she do?
- 9 A. I've no idea, because I was going down the stairs.
- 10 Q. And did she shout, "Scotland Yard are whispering to
- 11 me to tell me to keep quiet"?
- 12 A. She didn't shout anything.
- 13 Q. And you left and walked away?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. You reported the incident straight away, did you?
- 16 A. I did, yes.
- 17 Q. Who to? Just be -- as far as -- if you need to check
- 18 the cipher key, was it one of your closer managers?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. The direct rank above you?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. There is -- at that level, we know that there was
- 23 a Phil Saunders and an HN294. Was it one of those two?
- 24 A. It would have been Phil Saunders, as I remember.
- 25 Q. I think in your statement you reference the fact that

1 you called him at home to tell him what had happened.

2 A. It may well have been, yes.

3 Q. And so you must have had his home phone number at that

4 point?

5 A. Probably.

6 Q. And what did he say that you should do at that point?

7 A. That I -- I can't recall. It was all -- I -- I just

8 went home and it was all taken up in the morning.

9 Q. It was? I'm so sorry, I can't hear very clearly. You

10 went home and it was all taken up in the morning, did

11 you say?

12 A. In the morning, yes. And it was agreed that my

13 deployment finished there and then.

14 Q. Well, you help us with a little more detail in your

15 statement there by saying that the next day, the Head of

16 Special Branch, Vic Gilbert, and

17 the Deputy Commissioner, Roland Watts, came to speak to

18 you. They're very senior officers, aren't they?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. So this must have been quite an unusual event?

21 A. It was.

22 Q. They came to explain that they had a master plan and

23 that:

24 "... if I was ever confronted about being a UCO,

25 I should say that I was acting completely 'off my own

1 bat' and that my superior officers were unaware of what
2 I was doing."

3 You say at paragraph 86 {MPS/741095/23}:

4 "I was livid that they refused to take
5 responsibility and walked away from them both."

6 And you recall that Phil Saunders wasn't there at
7 that meeting?

8 A. That's right. I mean --

9 Q. Was the suggestion, if you were confronted by activists
10 and you carried on being deployed, you should say it
11 wasn't down to your superior officers, or was this if
12 anyone in Special Branch spoke to you?

13 A. It was them covering their own tracks, that's what --

14 Q. -- (overspeaking) --

15 A. -- (inaudible).

16 Q. Covering their own tracks within the police force, or if
17 you were confronted by activists?

18 A. -- (overspeaking) -- Special Branch, because Vic Gilbert
19 was the Deputy Assistant Commissioner of Special Branch
20 and Roland Watts was a Commander Operations, I think he
21 was, and they were there to row themselves out of
22 anything having to do with it. And I took that -- I was
23 very upset that that was -- when a little bit of support
24 was needed, it was not there.

25 Q. So if you were quizzed about this by anybody in

1 the broader police force, you were to make sure that --
2 you had to take responsibility and not get your senior
3 officers into trouble?

4 A. Yes, that's what -- that's all it was.

5 Q. If Phil Saunders had been there, do you think he might
6 have stepped in and said anything at this suggestion?

7 A. Phil Saunders was a gentleman and he would have dealt
8 with it appropriately. There wasn't a bad side to
9 Phil Saunders.

10 Q. Did he persuade you -- did he try to persuade you to
11 stay within the SDS and to continue the work?

12 A. I couldn't have stayed within the SDS.

13 Q. And so you considered that this was definitely
14 unsatisfactory and it was your decision, effectively, to
15 withdraw from your deployment?

16 A. I think, for all reasons, I couldn't have stayed in
17 the SDS, because when Ethel went away, she was an
18 unknown quantity; I didn't know what she was going to
19 say or not say. But I never heard any more about it.

20 Q. Do you recall that two other undercover officers were
21 withdrawn as well as a precaution: HN348 and
22 Jill Mosdell?

23 A. I can't remember that, but yes, I would agree with that.

24 Q. Was this viewed as a failure within the SDS, this
25 compromise?

1 A. No, it was not a failure, it was just circumstances --

2 Q. So, it wasn't detrimental to your career or your
3 prospects at all as a police officer?

4 A. It was not. It was just circumstances that were totally
5 beyond your control.

6 Q. You ultimately, I think -- and we'll hear at a later
7 stage in the Inquiry -- came back to work in an
8 administrative capacity between 1982 and 1985 within
9 the SDS; is that right?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And at the conclusion of your deployment you didn't have
12 any rest time after this incident, you didn't feel
13 affected by your work and you went to work elsewhere in
14 the police force?

15 A. That's right, yes.

16 MS WILKINSON: Thank you very much, HN84 [sic]. I don't
17 have any further questions for you at this stage, but
18 there is a process that we need to follow to check
19 whether anybody else who's been listening to your
20 evidence wants to address anything that's arisen out of
21 it. So if we just wait there, there will be a pause
22 now.

23 A. Thank you.

24 Questions by THE CHAIRMAN

25 THE CHAIRMAN: I have two questions before we have our

1 pause.

2 The "duff" accommodation you had. Can you describe
3 it in general terms, size, whether it was -- which floor
4 it was on, that sort of thing?

5 A. It -- it was part of a terraced house in West End Lane
6 that was let into rooms. It was a filthy rooming house
7 run by a large Irish lady and it was poorly furnished.
8 It cost me somewhere in the region of £3 or £4 a week.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: It was a room?

10 A. Just a room, yes, sir.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Separate topic now. When your deployment
12 ended in the circumstances you've described, did you
13 speak to Ethel yourself after you'd met her on
14 the stairs, whether that day or later?

15 A. After that incident, I never saw her again.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

17 As I explained before, there's now going to be
18 a ten-minute break. And if anybody who's been following
19 the proceedings who is a core participant has any
20 question that they wish Ms Wilkinson to raise, she will
21 raise it with you after the ten minutes have gone.

22 Would you be prepared to come back in ten minutes?

23 A. Thank you, Sir.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

25 MR FERNANDES: Good afternoon, everyone. We will now take

1 a ten-minute break. May I remind those in the virtual
2 hearing room to remember to join your break-out rooms.

3 The time is 12.45 pm, so we shall resume at
4 12.55 pm.

5 Thank you.

6 (12.46 pm)

7 (A short break)

8 (1.08 pm)

9 MR FERNANDES: Good afternoon, everyone. Welcome back and
10 thank you for your patience. I will now hand over to
11 the Chairman to continue proceedings.

12 Chairman.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

14 HN45, there are two further questions that are going
15 to be asked of you by Ms Wilkinson. Before she asks
16 those questions, may I say something to the wider
17 audience.

18 I have heard the evidence on the incident which
19 caused HN45 to end his deployment, with one significant
20 exception, I had not yet received from Diane Langford
21 the extract from her dissertation which she was going to
22 send to me.

23 Ms Wilkinson.

24 Further questions by MS WILKINSON

25 MS WILKINSON: May I just deal with two matters, HN45.

1 You referenced the fact that there was a stage where
2 you were quizzed and you had to reassure people that you
3 were "Dave Robertson", and gave some background to
4 withstand the scrutiny that you were put under at that
5 stage, and I think you said that that had come about
6 because the people in the groups that you were mixing
7 with were quite paranoid at that stage; is that right?

8 A. Yes, they were, in their own way.

9 Q. And I think you said they were paranoid about being
10 infiltrated generally and about being infiltrated by
11 others. Who did they think they were being infiltrated
12 by?

13 A. They didn't really know. I think they felt they were
14 being infiltrated by everybody.

15 Q. And who might that have included, from your
16 understanding of what they thought?

17 A. Well, just police, Security Services, other groups,
18 anything.

19 Q. Other groups, other activist groups?

20 A. Yes, yes.

21 Q. The final question is this: were you aware -- your cover
22 accommodation was in West End Lane.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. That you've told us about. Are you aware of any other
25 police estate nearby at that stage, in the 70s?

1 A. No.

2 MS WILKINSON: No, all right.

3 Thank you. Those are all the questions that I have
4 to ask.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

6 Thank you, HN45. I'm sorry that your evidence took
7 a little longer, with rather more breaks than I'd
8 anticipated, but that is now an end of your evidence.

9 Thank you for giving it.

10 A. Thank you, Sir.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: We will now break. Because the time is just
12 after 10 past, we will break until 2.10.

13 MS KAUFMANN: Sir, just before we do break, I just wonder,
14 I had indicated to Ms Wilkinson that I wanted to ask
15 you, Sir, for some clarification in relation to --

16 THE CHAIRMAN: I am not here to answer your questions.

17 MR FERNANDES: We will now take a break for lunch.

18 The hearing will resume at 2.10 pm.

19 Thank you.

20 (1.11 pm)

21 (The short adjournment)

22 (2.10 pm)

23 MR FERNANDES: Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to the
24 afternoon session of today's evidential sessions. For
25 those in the virtual hearing room, please remember to

1 turn off both your camera and microphone.

2 I will now hand over to the Chairman,
3 Sir John Mitting, to continue proceedings.

4 Chairman.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

6 As at the beginning of every evidence session,
7 a recording made earlier is now going to be played. If
8 there is anybody listening to it for the first time,
9 please listen carefully.

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

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

1 sequestration of their assets.

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

14 This restriction has a purpose. In the course of
15 the Inquiry, I have made orders prohibiting the public
16 disclosure of information, for example, about
17 the identity of a person, for a variety of reasons.
18 These orders must be upheld.

19 It is inevitable that, whether by accident or
20 design, information which I have ordered should not be
21 publicly disclosed will sometimes be disclosed in
22 a hearing. If and when that happens, I will immediately
23 suspend the hearing and make an order prohibiting
24 further disclosure of the information outside
25 the hearing rooms. The consequence will be that no

1 further disclosure of that information may be made by
2 mobile telephone or other portable electronic device
3 from within the hearing room, or by any means outside
4 it.

5 I'm sorry if you find this message alarming. It is
6 not intended to be. Its purpose is simply to ensure
7 that everyone knows the rules which must apply if I am
8 to hear the evidence which I need to enable me to get to
9 the truth about undercover policing. You, as members of
10 the public, are entitled to hear the same public
11 evidence as I will hear, and to reach your own
12 conclusions about it. The Inquiry team will do their
13 best to ensure that you can.

14 If you have any doubt about the terms of this
15 message or what you may or may not do, you should not
16 hesitate to ask one of them and, with my help if
17 necessary, they will provide you with the answer.

18 Is HN347 there?

19 HN347 (called)

20 A. Yes, I am.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Is there anybody in the room other than you?

22 A. No, not at all.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Do you wish to affirm or to be sworn?

24 A. I shall affirm, please.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Then may you be affirmed, please.

1 Mr Fernandes.

2 (Witness affirmed)

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Barr.

4 Questions by MR BARR

5 MR BARR: Thank you, Sir.

6 Are you the former undercover police officer that we
7 know by the nominal "HN347"?

8 A. Yes, I am.

9 Q. You have provided the Inquiry with a witness statement
10 dated 14 October 2019. Are the contents of that witness
11 statement true and correct to the best of your knowledge
12 and belief?

13 A. Yes, indeed.

14 Q. I'm going to start, first of all, with how you came to
15 be selected for the Special Demonstration Squad. And in
16 particular, can you recall anything being said to you
17 about whether the SDS wanted married officers in
18 the unit?

19 A. I have no recollection of that sort of thing whatsoever.

20 Q. I'm now going to move on to ask you a little bit about
21 training and guidance.

22 Now, you've made clear in your witness statement
23 that you didn't have any formal training from the SDS.
24 What is your recollection about how you understood what
25 was expected of you when you deployed undercover?

- 1 A. When you say what was expected of me, do you mean in
2 moral terms or the work I had to do and stuff?
- 3 Q. Well, let's start with the work you had to do.
- 4 A. Well, as far -- as far as I can remember -- and we're
5 now talking many years ago, it was to find any
6 information about the group I was in and to relay it
7 back to my senior officers.
- 8 Q. And were you given any guidance about what information
9 Special Branch would be interested in and what
10 information it would not be interested in?
- 11 A. Well, I would know from Special Branch it would be
12 interested in anything that was subversive towards
13 the state and anything which would relate to public
14 order events.
- 15 Q. Had you had any training, either from Special Branch or
16 from the SDS, as to what the definition of "subversion"
17 was?
- 18 A. Not really. I mean, if you -- if you join
19 Special Branch, you're probably politically aware
20 anyway, and you've an idea of what -- what people would
21 want to -- to hear from you.
- 22 Q. And so what was your understanding, when you deployed as
23 an undercover officer, about what was and what was not
24 subversive?
- 25 A. Well, it was my -- I was submitting reports, and it

1 wasn't for me to judge what was in these reports as to
2 whether or not it was subversive or not or against
3 public order. I would just listen to what I'd heard, or
4 what people had said to me, or what had been said in
5 a meeting, and I would relay the facts to my senior
6 officers, who then decided what to do with the --
7 the information.

8 Q. Did you apply any sort of filter to what it was that you
9 were reporting?

10 A. None whatsoever, because I didn't think I was probably
11 intelligent enough to do that.

12 Q. Were you given any guidance as to what criminal offences
13 you might or might not commit undercover?

14 A. No. I know that previously someone had been probably
15 arrested for contempt of court. But as far as
16 committing criminal offences, I mean, I would never,
17 ever have thought about committing criminal offences.
18 It was against my complete nature.

19 Q. I mean, did you have any sense, for example, if your
20 group went out flyposting, whether you were able to do
21 that in order to maintain your cover?

22 A. Yeah, I think, to a certain extent, you had to do things
23 like that of a very, very minor nature. But as far as
24 perhaps doing something serious and violent, you know,
25 you'd never, ever entertain doing that.

- 1 Q. Can you remember whether you got any advice and
2 guidance, formally or informally, from either
3 undercover officers or from managers before you
4 deployed?
- 5 A. I have got to say that my recollection is so vague,
6 I couldn't tell you one way or another.
- 7 Q. Did you gather, one way or another, formally or
8 informally, what you should do if you were ever
9 interrogated about your identity?
- 10 A. Well, the thing was, you had obviously a cover story and
11 you stuck to that cover story, and tried to remember it
12 as best as you could; because I've got to tell you that
13 you can remember the truth easily, but to remember your
14 lies is very difficult sometimes.
- 15 Q. And if you were being accused of being a police officer,
16 were you given any advice or guidance, or were you left
17 to your own devices?
- 18 A. Completely left to your own devices of what -- because
19 obviously we were -- I -- I think we were quite
20 intelligent, Special Branch, and we had -- you know,
21 could think through -- think -- think things through
22 before we -- we took a decision on something.
- 23 Q. Were you given any advice or guidance, formal or
24 informal, about what to do if your cover was actually
25 blown?

- 1 A. No.
- 2 Q. Were you given any advice or guidance, at any time
3 during your police career, before you deployed
4 undercover about what legally professionally privileged
5 information is?
- 6 A. Well, the only thing is that when you -- when you join
7 Special Branch, certain stuff is confidential, certain
8 stuff is secret; and obviously you don't -- you don't
9 disclose what -- what the information is.
- 10 Q. Did you know legal professional privilege is a term of
11 art. Did you know what the definition of
12 "legal professional privilege" was?
- 13 A. No.
- 14 Q. Were you given any guidance or instruction about whether
15 or not you should assume positions of responsibility
16 within your target group?
- 17 A. I think what had happened was you -- you went into
18 a target group, and if you were offered a responsible
19 position, ie treasurer or secretary, or whatever, then
20 you would accept it.
- 21 Q. Nobody told you not to do that?
- 22 A. Not at all.
- 23 Q. Did anybody encourage you to do that?
- 24 A. You weren't encouraged, it was just the way that -- you
25 went with the flow, and if that happened, then you would

1 -- you would do that, yeah.

2 Q. Naming no names, did any of your colleagues do that?

3 A. Oh, I haven't a clue what my colleagues did. It wasn't
4 as though we went round discussing what we were doing
5 inside the organisations.

6 Q. I'm going to move now to ask you some questions about
7 your cover story and the documents you had to back it
8 up. There is a restriction order about how and why you
9 chose your particular cover identity, and I'm not asking
10 you to say anything about that at all.

11 You've told us in your witness statement that you
12 had employment documents and a rent book, but no driving
13 licence, library cards or payslips.

14 My first question is, at any time during your
15 deployment, did the absence of a driving licence,
16 a library card or a payslip cause you any difficulty?

17 A. No, not at all, because I was never asked to drive
18 anywhere with the group, and as far as I can see,
19 anything I had was my confidential stuff and they
20 wouldn't be allowed to search me to find stuff, like
21 payslips or driving licences or library cards.

22 Q. Your cover identity was as a mechanic. Was it not
23 a little bit strange to be a mechanic without a driving
24 licence?

25 A. Well, they never asked to see it, so I mean, that --

1 that's the -- that's the point. If they had asked to
2 see it, then I would have had to come up with some sort
3 of story.

4 Q. Did you ever need to use the documents that you did have
5 to back up your cover story?

6 A. Sorry, I don't -- I don't know what you mean by
7 "documents", because I didn't really have any documents.
8 I didn't say to the people I was with, "This is -- this
9 is it, this is my passport, this is who I am," I was
10 never asked that sort of question.

11 Q. Without telling me anything about exactly how and why
12 you chose a cover identity that you did, or any details
13 about it, is there any particular reason why you didn't
14 have a driving licence or a library card or payslips?

15 A. The only reason I can say is that because it was very
16 early on in the formation of the SDS, I think that
17 things hadn't really been thought through to a great
18 extent of what everyone should have in their possession.
19 So things evolved after I left. So whether or not they
20 had them then, I just do not know.

21 Q. Again, without naming names, do you know whether or not
22 any of your colleagues had documents of that nature
23 whilst you were serving in the SDS?

24 A. Well, no one ever mentioned it to me.

25 Q. Were you required to draft a written autobiography --

1 again, don't give me any details -- to be tested by
2 managers about the integrity of your identity before you
3 deployed?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Again, no details, please; can you just give me a yes/no
6 answer to this question. But when you did construct
7 your cover identity, did you think through the different
8 risks inherent in the method that you were using?

9 A. No, not at all. It's only when you look back at it, as
10 I did the other night, and thinking, "Yeah, this was
11 pretty dangerous," you know? "What was I doing there
12 for days at a time?" No, I didn't really think about
13 that.

14 Q. I want to move on now to life when you were undercover.
15 You've told us that you would meet managers. Was
16 that at the SDS safe house?

17 A. Yes, it was. It was at -- it wasn't the -- it was at an
18 address where one of the colleagues who was in one of
19 the groups, at his residence.

20 Q. Yes, I wanted to ask you about that. Let's have a look
21 at a document.

22 Could we have up on the screen, please,
23 {MPS/730521}, please. And if we could blow that up.
24 Thank you.

25 This is a memorandum from Chief Inspector Saunders

1 to Commander Cunningham. It's dated 11 February 1971,
2 and so fairly early on in your deployment, as we
3 understand it. What I'm interested in is paragraph 4.
4 It's a financial document. Paragraph 4 covers
5 accommodation. It says:

6 "The expenditure at the present time on rents and
7 certain miscellaneous items is:-"

8 And it says:

9 "HQ Flat -- 1: £70 per month.

10 "HQ flat -- 2: £65 [per month]."

11 Do you see that?

12 A. Yes, I do.

13 Q. Thank you.

14 If we could scroll down now, please. Thank you.

15 Towards the bottom of the list there's a list of
16 undercover officers' nominal numbers. You are at
17 the bottom of that list --

18 A. I would have been.

19 Q. -- "[Detective Constable] HN347: £20, [4 weekly]". That
20 appears to relate to your cover accommodation,
21 doesn't it?

22 A. It does, yes.

23 Q. And was that a bedsit?

24 A. Yes, it was.

25 Q. And one line above yours is DC HN45 at £21 per 4 weekly.

1 That is the -- that's the nominal for the officer who in
2 your witness statement you say you went to his
3 accommodation; is that right?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Now, looking at the difference in rents between the two
6 cover flats and the rents that were being paid on yours
7 and 45's accommodation, would it be fair to say that
8 HN45's cover accommodation looks like it was also
9 a bedsit?

10 A. Yes. I can't argue with that.

11 Q. And is it your recollection that 45's cover
12 accommodation was a bedsit?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Could you describe to me, in terms of number of rooms,
15 size of rooms, that sort of thing, what the premises at
16 which you met comprised of?

17 A. The only thing I can remember is that we -- we sat
18 around in a large lounge. And as far as walking through
19 it -- I might have gone to the toilet. But as far as
20 walking through, checking bedrooms, I have no
21 recollection of that whatsoever.

22 Q. Did it have a kitchen?

23 A. Ah, now you're asking. I just don't know. I just --
24 I have to say I don't know.

25 Q. And these meetings, what's your recollection of how many

1 people were at them?

2 A. Oh, it varied. Sometimes people couldn't make it
3 because they were doing various things. Probably top
4 whack six/seven/eight, and that's about it. Plus --
5 plus the two senior officers.

6 Q. There were rather more undercover officers serving in
7 the SDS at that time than six, and with the officers:
8 might there have been some meetings at which there were
9 more than six officers plus managers?

10 A. There could have been. I just -- I just don't know.
11 We're out my realms of what I know.

12 Q. Can we look at another document now, please. If we
13 could take that one down, and if we could have
14 {MPS/728971} up. Could we go to page 6, please,
15 {MPS/728971/6}, and to paragraph 15.

16 This is the SDS annual report for 1971.

17 Paragraph 15 reads:

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

1 Now, if you put that information together with
2 the document I've just shown you, which showed that in
3 February there were two cover premises, we know that you
4 were deployed from early 1971 until -- and we'll come to
5 exactly when your deployment ended, but at least until
6 the end of June, and maybe a little longer.

7 The documents suggest that there were two cover
8 flats, HQ flats, during the time, or at least most of
9 the time that you were a deployed officer with the SDS.

10 Can you recall that being the case?

11 A. No, I can't. I can only recall ever going to one place
12 to have meetings with my senior officers, and I can't
13 remember going to a second premises at all.

14 Q. And since if the SDS had at least one cover flat, and it
15 looks as if they had two at the material time, wouldn't
16 it have been a bit strange to go to HN45's bedsit?

17 A. Well, I -- I only -- the reason I say about HN45 was
18 the fact that he was at this place, and that's as much
19 as I can remember. And it certainly wasn't a bedsit.
20 So he might have been based in some other place, but it
21 certainly wasn't a bedsit, because it was -- it was too
22 -- too big to be just a bedsit.

23 Q. Thank you.

24 I'll move on now to the actual meetings themselves.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Barr, a moment. May I interject here to

1 ask a question about this topic?

2 MR BARR: Of course.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: HN45 has told us that he used, occasionally,
4 because he was a single man, to sleep in one of
5 the headquarters flats or safe houses, because there was
6 material stored there that needed to be kept safe.

7 Is it possible that you are thinking of occasions when
8 he slept in the headquarters flat and you then visited
9 it, assuming that it was his?

10 A. Sir, I can only think that must be the case, and you've
11 put it better than I can. Yeah, that was probably what
12 happened.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

14 MR BARR: Thank you, Sir.

15 I was moving on to the actual meetings in the cover
16 flat themselves. Now, you've described meetings of
17 about half a dozen officers, typically, plus -- is it
18 a couple of managers?

19 A. Yeah, there was always two managers there.

20 Q. And is that the chief inspector and the detective
21 inspector?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. And I'm interested in getting a flavour of what was
24 happening at those meetings. So let me try putting
25 a few things to you, and you tell me whether they were

1 happening or not.

2 Would you, for example, submit draft reports?

3 A. That -- that thing has troubled me. I can't remember
4 how my reports came about, and would I -- or did I just
5 memorise stuff and then pass it on. I must have written
6 it down after attending certain meetings. But as far as
7 it goes and who typed out reports, I cannot remember.

8 Q. And would you have explained to the people present in
9 the room what you had been doing over the last week?

10 A. Yes, but it was more of a -- a sort of social gathering
11 to make sure everyone was okay, and we kept in touch
12 with each other. And it was a bit of a -- a relaxation
13 period, sort of thing, we all met together.

14 Q. I'm interested in whether it was -- whether there was
15 any distinction. Was the time used in a discrete formal
16 period followed by a social, or was the whole period
17 a mixture of the professional and the social?

18 A. I think -- I would say professional and social. We were
19 all together in one room just chatting away.

20 Q. And so, for example, if there had been -- if one of
21 the officers had been at a lively demonstration, is that
22 the sort of thing that he would have spoken about and
23 you would have all heard about?

24 A. Yes, certainly. Most certainly.

25 Q. And if there were any particular characters in groups

- 1 that had behaved in remarkable ways, for example, is
2 that the sort of thing that might have been mentioned?
- 3 A. Things that might have stood out, yes.
- 4 Q. And if issues had arisen about tradecraft, problem
5 issues, things like that, are they the sort of things
6 that would have been raised and discussed at these
7 meetings?
- 8 A. Oh yeah. I think that any problems, as far as jobs, or
9 transport, or whatever, yeah, that would have been
10 brought up, yeah.
- 11 Q. And so, if anybody had had, for example, a problem,
12 a dilemma, a professional dilemma in the field about how
13 to deal with it, is that the sort of thing that people
14 might discuss and seek advice and the benefit of peers
15 and managers?
- 16 A. Well, you have to remember in these days -- and I'm not
17 showing a lamp here -- we had no mobile phones, we had
18 no means of communication with our senior officers
19 barring the red telephone box at the end of the street.
20 So yeah, that was the time to bring up queries and
21 stuff, when we had these meetings.
- 22 Q. And in terms of how well it worked, did you find that
23 was a good way of getting professional support from your
24 colleagues in your deployment?
- 25 A. I thought it was an ideal way, yes.

1 Q. And did you feel able to ventilate any difficulties you
2 had, or any advice that you wanted, to seek it from
3 people in those meetings?

4 A. Yes, no problem whatsoever.

5 Q. Did you get the impression that your colleagues felt
6 the same way?

7 A. Oh yeah. It was very, very open meetings. It wasn't as
8 though we were sitting there and saying, "Oh, I'm
9 brooding over this." Very, very open meetings.

10 Q. And would you talk about the week to come? For example,
11 if there was a big demonstration coming up that multiple
12 groups were involved in, is that the sort of thing that
13 would be discussed?

14 A. Yeah, you might say, "Are you going to this
15 demonstration? Are you going to this meeting?" or
16 whatever, yeah.

17 Q. And would you deal with administrative matters, pay,
18 expenses, that sort of thing?

19 A. Yeah, you'd definitely deal with that sort of thing
20 there, because there was no other way of getting it to
21 Scotland Yard, apart from giving it to your senior
22 management when you met them on the Monday.

23 Q. And if you wanted to speak privately, if there was
24 something that you didn't want to ventilate in front of
25 everybody else, was there an opportunity to speak to

- 1 managers privately?
- 2 A. Yeah, I mean, you could -- if I remember rightly, you
3 could ask to talk to them privately, take them to one
4 side, and perhaps go in the kitchen, if it was there.
- 5 Q. And if you wanted to speak to managers at other times
6 privately, were they available to you?
- 7 A. Well, you'd have to ring Scotland Yard and then arrange
8 for them to come and meet you somewhere which was
9 a nondescript location.
- 10 Q. On the social side, socially, how close were you to your
11 fellow officers?
- 12 A. I, being what I am, was not terribly socially close to
13 my colleagues.
- 14 Q. Now, how does that translate? Does that mean you would
15 sit and enjoy their company in the meetings, but perhaps
16 not much beyond that? Am I in the right territory
17 there, or not?
- 18 A. Well, it may come as a surprise, but being a Scotsman
19 I wasn't interested in having a drink. So yes, we just
20 sat there and just discussed things.
- 21 Q. I see. Were you able to have a laugh and to relax and
22 wind down with them?
- 23 A. Oh, life is so serious. Yes, we were.
- 24 Q. Okay. I'm going to move on now to the INLSF.
25 As I've understood your statement, you were

1 specifically instructed to infiltrate that group. Were
2 you told what it was about what that group did or were
3 thought to be doing that concerned Special Branch?

4 A. I -- I would be guessing here if I said the terms of
5 reference. I would just -- they said to me that's
6 the group we'd like you to try and get into, and I just
7 did it.

8 Q. I see.

9 And you describe in your statement your pattern of
10 life undercover. First of all, you've told us that you
11 spent several nights per week in your cover
12 accommodation. Was that your decision or was that
13 a management instruction?

14 A. No, it wasn't a management instruction, it's just that
15 more often than not I would finish very late with
16 the group I was with. Sometimes, in fact quite often,
17 I'd just spend the night in their -- their
18 accommodation, sleeping on a sofa or settee somewhere
19 and dossing down, because sometimes we didn't get to bed
20 until 4 or 5 o'clock in the morning.

21 Q. And you've described going to the SDS meeting on
22 a Monday, spending Tuesdays and Wednesdays at home, and
23 selling papers -- and we saw an example of the paper
24 yesterday -- on a Thursday and a Friday.

25 Can I pause there and ask you about selling papers.

- 1 Was that an all-day activity, part of the day?
- 2 A. Friday night we used to gather at a certain address, and
3 we'd go off and go round the pubs in Hammersmith,
4 Kilburn, and then perhaps 2 o'clock in the morning
5 outside an Irish dance hall in North London, selling
6 newspapers. Then go back. And I would kip down on
7 the sofa with somebody -- on someone's sofa. Then
8 Saturday we'd sell the newspapers again, and perhaps go
9 up to Coventry and Birmingham and sell them outside
10 Irish dance halls in these places. Come back down then
11 1, 2, 3 o'clock in the morning, when it's snowing
12 heavily. Spend a day with them on their couch again.
13 And then have a meeting on the Sunday afternoon.
- 14 Q. And how long were the Sunday afternoon meetings?
- 15 A. Oh, probably too long. Probably three/four hours
16 sometimes.
- 17 Q. Now, standing back and thinking about all of that
18 activity -- selling the newspapers, going to
19 demonstrations, going to the meetings -- does it follow
20 that you had quite a lot of face-to-face contact with
21 the members of your group?
- 22 A. Yeah. Yeah, I would say so.
- 23 Q. And if you were staying on their sofas and things like
24 that, presumably there was plenty of opportunity to talk
25 to them and to interact with them socially?

1 A. I had a lot of interaction with them socially, because
2 we used to go up to the Midlands in a minibus on the M1,
3 then come back in a minibus on the M1, and we'd sell
4 the newspapers in pairs. So yeah, a lot of interaction.

5 Q. And how did you use this interaction to gather
6 intelligence for Special Branch?

7 A. Listen to what they tell you. Because if you made too
8 many questions, then they started being suspicious, and
9 I didn't want that. So you listen and glean information
10 from that.

11 Q. And in terms of any positive contribution that you made
12 to conversations, how did you deal with that?

13 A. Oh, I suppose trying on a subject they might be
14 interested in. Really I can't remember. Football
15 perhaps.

16 Q. Did you try and influence the direction of the group at
17 all?

18 A. No, I was never far enough into that to do that.

19 Q. If you had been far enough in to do that, would that
20 have been something you would have considered doing?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Why not?

23 A. Well, because I -- you have to be very careful what you
24 do. And I probably have asked senior management if
25 I should do it, go in a certain direction with

1 the group. Didn't have the opportunity, so, you know,
2 it's a question I just don't know.

3 Q. Compared to your experiences in Special Branch before
4 you joined the SDS, how much better was the SDS in terms
5 of the level of intelligence that you could obtain?

6 A. Well, previously you could see in my statement what I'd
7 done in Special Branch and then I joined the SDS. And
8 of course, we had various sections in Special Branch
9 which dealt with various organisations and groups. And,
10 well, I was just -- just in there. I don't know, quite
11 honestly.

12 Q. Did using the undercover tactic give you access to more
13 information than, for example, attending a meeting in
14 plain clothes?

15 A. Yeah, because we used to attend certain meetings at
16 Hyde Park corner, and all this sort of stuff, where
17 you'd glean some information -- or Red Lion Square and
18 stuff. But it was never the same as being inside
19 a group, because you garnish a lot more information from
20 that.

21 Q. You say in your witness statement that you didn't have
22 any overtime and that you weren't permitted to take any
23 overtime. We've seen from your outline of a normal week
24 that you got two days at home and a day at the SDS
25 meeting. Did you feel that that was a balance between

1 being undercover and not undercover that enabled you to
2 maintain your welfare?

3 A. Yeah. Don't forget, in these days, before everything
4 changed, we had detective's duty allowance, plain
5 clothes allowance. So in fact, that there was a certain
6 amount of extra money you got for being a detective. So
7 as far as I was concerned, that was fine.

8 Q. Do you think that if you had been more immersed in your
9 group, living the life 24 hours a day, seven days
10 a week, or something close to that, it might have become
11 more difficult for you in terms of welfare?

12 A. It could well have done if I had any -- any family at
13 the time. I was married, but I had no family. So my
14 wife had -- was very, very supportive. So -- she was
15 working. So there was no real problems about that.

16 Q. I mean, really what I was asking was not whether you had
17 problems doing what you did, but I was really driving at
18 whether you thought you had -- from a welfare point of
19 view you had a good balance, and that if you'd done more
20 it might not have been a good balance?

21 A. I can understand where you're getting from, because some
22 of my colleagues went really deep undercover. And
23 whether that would have suited me and my lifestyle
24 I just cannot tell you, because it didn't affect me.

25 Q. All right. I won't speculate any further with you.

1 Can I move to some of the other activities of
2 the INLSF. We know that they ran some political
3 classes. Did you attend those?

4 A. You know, I've read a statement about that, and I just
5 cannot remember being indoctrinated.

6 Q. And they supported various causes and campaigns, and one
7 of the campaigns that there are some references to is
8 the campaign following Stephen McCarthy's death. Do you
9 recall that?

10 A. Do you know, interestingly, I -- when I read -- read
11 about that, I thought, what was that case? And
12 I couldn't remember the case at all. But if you say
13 I was there, then I was there. But I just cannot
14 remember the case.

15 Q. Let me call up some of the documents.

16 A. Okay.

17 Q. Can we start, please, with {MPS/739483}.

18 This is tab 13, Sir.

19 And if we could go down into the main body of
20 the report to paragraph 4, please. That reads.

21 "Ed Davoren next dealt with the arrangements
22 (previously reported) for the demonstration at Hyde Park
23 on 14 March 1971. He stressed that all members should
24 meet at the Park at 1430 hours. He also announced
25 details of the public meeting at Islington Town Hall on

1 Monday 15 March 1971 when a 'peoples court' would be
2 held to try 'the Pigs who murdered Stephen McCarthy'
3 (also previously reported). In this connection it was
4 intended to distribute leaflets in the Islington area."

5 Can you remember the people's court?

6 A. I can't. And I can't even remember going to Islington
7 Town Hall. For some reason, it just -- there's
8 a complete blank there. I just cannot think where this
9 came from.

10 Q. There's reference to a demonstration outside Lewisham
11 police station. Can you remember demonstrating outside
12 Lewisham police station?

13 A. I might have done, but I can't remember.

14 Q. We heard yesterday that there was an incident where
15 Stephen's family members, we were told, lost their cool
16 to the extent they ended up being arrested. Can you
17 remember that?

18 A. No, I can't remember that at all.

19 Q. Can you remember whether you met any of Stephen's family
20 whilst you were undercover?

21 A. I -- do you know, it's funny, I can remember all
22 the names and stuff, and people who were involved and
23 things, but the name "Stephen McCarthy" means nothing to
24 me. I mean, I don't say it means nothing, I mean I just
25 cannot remember. And as far as meeting the relatives,

1 I don't think I did.

2 Q. Could we now take that document down, please, and have
3 up {MPS/739487}. And if we could go down, please, to
4 the body of the report. Thank you. And if we could
5 have the passage towards the bottom of the page with
6 the sidelines A and B. {MPS/739487/2}

7 Sir, this is tab 14.

8 I'm reading from a report dated 23 March 1971, and
9 the material passage reads:

10 "Ed Davoren then reviewed his plans in connection
11 with the Stephen McCarthy case. He had consulted
12 a solicitor who had said that on the basis of
13 the evidence gathered by the Revolutionary Coordinating
14 Committee there appeared to be sufficient evidence to
15 take the case before a Magistrate who could not refuse
16 a warrant for the arrest of the two police officers
17 concerned. After taking statements from the witnesses
18 and family this would be the next step. The family had
19 said they were prepared to give financial support to
20 another public meeting. Legal action was also being
21 contemplated against Chief Inspector Forrest for his
22 part in the riot after the meeting at Islington Town
23 Hall, when he had used his position 'to cause and
24 support police brutality'."

25 Can you recall anything about these events?

1 A. Not at all, no.

2 Q. Can you recall whether your managers had any particular
3 reaction to this report?

4 A. No, sorry. I'd be guessing if I said yes or no.

5 Q. Were you ever given any advice or guidance about
6 reporting on what we might call "justice cases"?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Were you given any advice or guidance about reporting on
9 campaigns which were effectively complaints against
10 the police?

11 A. I think only from the aspect of would there be public
12 order involved in this. And you have to try and give at
13 least a heads-up to uniformed colleagues that there
14 might be trouble at a certain demonstration or whatever.

15 Q. Can we take that document down, please.

16 Can we go to {MPS/739317}. And if we could scroll
17 down to the main body of the report and to paragraph 7,
18 please. {MPS/739317/2}.

19 Paragraph 7 of this report, which is dated
20 5 May 1971, reads:

21 "Ed Davoren then spoke of the latest developments in
22 the Stephen McCarthy case and of how the members of
23 the family were seriously considering asking for
24 the body to be exhumed. Two of the members of
25 the family had been told by the undertaker who dealt

1 with Stephen's body that it was impossible to recognise
2 him ..."

3 There are then some privacy redactions, and the text
4 continues:

5 "... said that the Solicitor representing
6 the McCarthy family had been approached by Chief
7 Superintendent Forrest of Islington Police Station to
8 ask Mr and Mrs McCarthy to sign a statement stating that
9 they had no knowledge of the contents of a leaflet
10 distributed to members of the public before the Public
11 Meeting at Islington Town Hall in April. Davoren said
12 that the McCarthys had refused and it was obvious that
13 the police intended taking ..."

14 If we could scroll down, please:

15 "... action against members of the INLSF, BUFP and
16 the McCarthy family for Criminal Libel but he felt that
17 the Police would not risk the public outcry in taking
18 the McCarthy family to court. Davoren concluded by
19 saying 'If they think the leaflet was Criminal Libel
20 just wait until they see the next edition of The Press.'"

21 Can you remember any of these events?

22 A. Not at all.

23 Q. Now, let's start with this report, which is about
24 the family considering exhuming the body of their loved
25 one. On its face, that isn't saying anything about

1 public order. Did you get any reaction from your
2 managers to reporting this information?

3 A. No, none at all, because all I did was submitted
4 information. My managers decided who the information
5 should go to. And I think it was in uniform badge. It
6 was A Department, they submitted stuff where there might
7 be public order. That was -- that was all I did.

8 Q. And were you ever told that there was no need to report
9 information such as this?

10 A. No, no.

11 Q. And going back to the last report, which was about
12 contemplated legal action against the police, did
13 anybody tell you that that was not necessary?

14 A. What, me reporting it was not necessary?

15 Q. Yes.

16 A. No, not at all.

17 Q. There was another group, the BUFP, which we understand
18 to be the Black Unity and Freedom Party. What was that
19 group's connection with the INLSF, so far as you are
20 aware?

21 A. I -- I don't know. As far as I can remember, they --
22 they suddenly materialised at a meeting in Davoren's
23 house one day and they were introduced to us. And that
24 was the first I -- I saw them -- saw of them.

25 Q. Did you see much of them after that?

1 A. Yeah, they tended to come to most of the meetings on
2 a Sunday.

3 Q. There's a report which reports a picket outside
4 Greenwich Magistrates Court. Can you remember that?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Would you go out and demonstrate with the BUFP?

7 A. If Mr Davoren instructed us to, then we would.

8 Q. We got some evidence yesterday about Mr Davoren's
9 character. How would you describe his leadership of
10 the group?

11 A. Donald Trump.

12 I just think that he was the boss, and you didn't
13 countermand what he said. And everyone was in awe of
14 him and, you know, you had to kowtow to what he wanted.
15 He made all the decisions and he dealt with
16 the finances. All that sort of stuff. He was -- he was
17 the leader.

18 Q. I see.

19 Did you go out and put up posters or stickers for
20 the INLSF?

21 A. Could have done.

22 Q. We saw some evidence yesterday that Mr Davoren had been
23 to the Chinese Legation. Can you recall what level of
24 contact there was between the INLSF and the Chinese
25 Legation?

1 A. No, I can't, but certain people in the organisation had
2 Maoist sympathies and were reporting back to
3 the Chinese. So -- as far as I could see, they were
4 reporting back to the Chinese. And it wouldn't surprise
5 me. But I don't know what he discussed at the Chinese
6 Legation.

7 Q. Now, in terms of the group's aims itself, would it be
8 fair to describe them, they had revolutionary
9 aspirations?

10 A. Yeah, I suppose it would be -- it would be fair to
11 describe them as such, yeah.

12 Q. And have I interpreted your witness statement correctly:
13 they didn't have the means to realise those aspirations?

14 A. I think you could probably end up thinking it was
15 Mickey Mouse.

16 Q. Was there any particular reason why they were seeking to
17 advance their revolutionary aspirations by campaigning
18 about Ireland?

19 A. Only because the Irish question was to the fore,
20 I suppose, and Davoren had Irish extraction, as had his
21 number two. And I suppose that's where -- I mean,
22 Davoren would probably end up supporting
23 the National Front if he could think he was going to be
24 the leader and get on, because that's all he was
25 interested in: him, him, him.

1 Q. You describe the INLSF demonstrations as occasions where
2 they would make noise and give speeches. Is that from
3 your first-hand knowledge of being there?

4 A. Yes, it is.

5 Q. And you say that you didn't witness or participate in
6 any public disorder. Can you give us an idea of whether
7 or not people were arrested at these demonstrations?

8 A. I can't, but having attended in uniform at various
9 demonstrations like Grosvenor Square and riots in
10 Lewisham and Brixton, and all that sort of stuff, the --
11 Davoren's group were never into that sort of thing.
12 Never had the muscle or the manpower or the will to do
13 it.

14 Q. And did they cooperate with the police in advance of
15 their demonstrations or not?

16 A. Well, I was there.

17 Q. I'm not sure they were co-operating with you, 347.

18 A. No, I can understand what you say.

19 No, not really, because they were -- they were small
20 demonstrations. It's not as though they -- I mean, if
21 I submitted information, then the police would know it
22 was going to happen. I mean, the days of organisations
23 and demonstrators having to liaise with police was --
24 this is before that time happened.

25 Q. If I could test it the other way round. If you hadn't

1 been there and you hadn't reported on their plans, do
2 you think that what the INLSF was doing would have
3 caused your uniformed colleagues any public order
4 policing problem?

5 A. No, it would have died a death eventually, the group.

6 Q. Yes, but when they were organising demonstrations?

7 A. Not really, but you had to be aware of that, just in
8 case. Because if you're not aware and things happen,
9 windows get smashed, people get injured, then the police
10 are then criticised. So you want as much information
11 for the uniform officers as you can.

12 Q. We'll move now to the topic of criminality. I think
13 you've said in your witness statement that it soon
14 became obvious to you that the INLSF weren't a group
15 that was going to carry out bombings or any serious
16 criminal activity. And you go further and say that they
17 didn't endorse, encourage, instigate, facilitate or
18 participate in violence during your deployment. That
19 seems to paint a comprehensive picture of a non-violent
20 group. Is that fair?

21 A. Yeah. I would never say that I'd be scared to meet them
22 on a dark night, because they were never scary at all.
23 They never gave off the vibes that they would cause
24 aggravation to anyone, or any person or property.

25 Q. We did hear some evidence yesterday of a delegation

1 going to Ireland. Were you a part of that delegation?

2 A. No, in fact I read about it the other day, and that's
3 the first time I've ever known about it.

4 Q. And we heard some evidence yesterday that members of
5 that delegation did meet some members of
6 the Provisional IRA during that visit. Did you learn
7 anything about the INLSF's contact with
8 the Provisional IRA?

9 A. Well, I should -- no, I didn't, but surmising it now,
10 I would have thought that the -- they were --
11 the IRA would have looked at this group and thought,
12 "You're of no interest to us whatsoever."

13 Q. There was some evidence, and there is some evidence in
14 the papers, that the group only contacted
15 the Provisional IRA and not the Official IRA, and that
16 seems to have been the cause of some controversy within
17 the group when they got back. Can you recall that?

18 A. I'm not aware of that, because I think that the --
19 the people who probably went to Ireland were the ones
20 who were in the inner core of the group, which I wasn't
21 in, and it might well have been discussed by then.

22 MR BARR: Sir, would that be a convenient time to break?

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Because we started -- take your own course,
24 but because we started a bit late, there's no need to
25 break now, but if it's convenient, fine.

1 MR BARR: I am asking because I've come to a convenient
2 juncture.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Then it is a convenient moment and we will
4 break for 15 minutes.

5 MR BARR: Thank you.

6 A. Thank you.

7 MR FERNANDES: Good afternoon, everyone. We will now take
8 a break. May I remind those in the virtual hearing room
9 to remember to join your break-out rooms, please.

10 The time is now 3.05, so we shall reconvene at
11 3.15 pm. Thank you.

12 (3.06 pm)

13 (A short break)

14 (3.20 pm)

15 MR FERNANDES: Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome back.

16 I will now hand over to the Chairman to continue
17 proceedings.

18 Chairman.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

20 Mr Barr.

21 MR BARR: Thank you, Sir.

22 347, I'm going to move now to the occasion when you
23 were accused of being a police officer.

24 The first thing that I'd like to do is to try and
25 locate that occasion in time. We've got some documents

1 which were in your pack which show the runup to an
2 emergency conference of the INLSF, which occurred on
3 26 and 27 June 1971. The sequence of events according
4 to the two reports that bear your name are that on
5 16 June, two members of the inner circle were expelled.
6 On Sunday 20 June, a paper was circulated proposing
7 a resolution for a number of people to be expelled from
8 the INLSF, and for there to be an emergency conference.
9 On 26 and 27 June, there was the emergency conference
10 during the course of which a number of those whom it was
11 proposed should be expelled walked out.

12 Can you recall those events?

13 A. I can recall some stressful meetings some weekend, but
14 as far as people being expelled and walking out, I can't
15 remember.

16 I think in the -- the main meetings where things
17 happened on the second Sunday, I think there were
18 members of the black organisation there as well.

19 I think it was a joint meeting.

20 Q. The documents say there was at least -- there were
21 either an, or more than one, observers from the Black
22 Unity and Freedom Party.

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Okay.

25 My next question to you is, was the emergency

1 conference the event at which you were accused of being
2 a police officer?

3 A. The -- the only recollection I have is in a meeting --
4 and I think it was the Sunday -- the second Sunday,
5 probably, up in Golders Green, and I was accused of
6 being -- Davoren said that O'Neill had accused me of
7 being a pig. I was irate at that. And I'm sure,
8 although accounts differ to this, as you probably know,
9 I got up and I was really cross and tried to threaten
10 someone. I was pulled back, and then two members,
11 O'Neill and someone else, left the group after that,
12 I think.

13 Q. In terms of the accusation, you've described Davoren
14 relaying an allegation from O'Neill. Did anybody else
15 accuse you of being a police officer at that stage, or
16 was it just Davoren's relaying O'Neill's --

17 A. I think O'Neill and probably one other, perhaps a chap
18 called "Rose" -- I can't remember -- were the two who --
19 who said that, because I think they were the two,
20 O'Neill especially, who had tried to follow me one day,
21 prior to that meeting.

22 Q. When you were followed, could you explain what happened.

23 A. The only thing I can remember about is they followed me
24 down the Edgware Road, I think. And I realised I was
25 being followed, so in fact I lost them.

1 Q. And how did you know who it was?

2 A. Recognised them.

3 Q. Did you report being followed?

4 A. Yes, why wouldn't I? I think I probably phoned one of

5 my senior managers.

6 Q. Can you recall what, if any, advice you were given?

7 A. Not at all. No, I can't. No, I'd be -- I'd be

8 surmising.

9 Q. Going back to the accusation itself, you say that you

10 got angry. When the accusation was made, were you

11 sitting down?

12 A. Yeah. Yes -- yeah, yeah, I was sitting down. I think

13 there was a circle of us sitting down like a, you know,

14 a little circle of people.

15 Q. You've mentioned today threatening somebody and getting

16 angry. First of all, was the anger real or feigned?

17 A. Feigned.

18 Q. If it's Davoren or O'Neill or Temple, you can use

19 the name. If it's not, please don't use a name.

20 A. Okay.

21 Q. Who did you threaten?

22 A. Oh, I think it was O'Neill.

23 Q. And how did you threaten O'Neill?

24 A. Well, obviously I think I probably -- oh, am

25 I incriminating myself here? I probably raised my fist

1 and said, "Don't you ever say that about me again."

2 That was it.

3 Q. You've done something which is very rare, 347, you're
4 going to get a barrister to answer your question and not
5 the other way around.

6 The answer to your question is there is an
7 undertaking from the Attorney General you cannot
8 incriminate yourself in this evidence. The purpose of
9 that is so that you can tell us the truth without fear
10 of being prosecuted. So you have nothing to worry about
11 on that score.

12 Can you tell us what you did to O'Neill, please.

13 A. I didn't touch him, I just threatened him. And then
14 I think, if I remember, after that, the sequence of
15 events were they were expelled and left the meeting, and
16 Ed Davoren, then, him and I and another couple, I think
17 -- I might be wrong on this -- we went out for something
18 to eat, because it was probably half past 5/6 o'clock on
19 a Sunday evening, and he said to me -- and I remember
20 this quite specifically -- "I never once thought you
21 were a pig, Alistair" -- or "Alex", and that was it.

22 Q. Had anybody -- did anybody give you any advice about
23 threatening violence to members of your group?

24 A. No, I think it was an instinctive thing. I mean, you
25 could sit there and take it and say, "Yeah, I'm sorry,

- 1 I am a police officer," or you do something to get
2 yourself out of a situation. And that's what I did,
3 because you've got to think on your feet.
- 4 Q. Did you report having done that to your managers
5 afterwards?
- 6 A. Report doing what?
- 7 Q. Threatening O'Neill.
- 8 A. Yeah, I told them what had happened.
- 9 Q. What was their reaction?
- 10 A. It might have been, "Good on you," but I just can't
11 remember.
- 12 Q. Okay. And I take it from that answer that they
13 certainly weren't cross with you?
- 14 A. No.
- 15 Q. So you have dinner with Davoren after the meeting.
- 16 A. Can I just say, I wouldn't go so far as dinner. It
17 might have been a McDonald's or something.
- 18 Q. Did there come a time when you met Norman Temple after
19 the emergency conference, whether that same day or at
20 a later occasion?
- 21 A. I've thought about that, and I think it might have been
22 the same time. I think he -- he could well have been
23 with myself and Davoren when that happened.
- 24 Q. Was there an occasion where you had a conversation with
25 him and one other person outside your flat?

- 1 A. My flat? No. I can't remember. I don't remember ever
2 taking him to where my bedsit was.
- 3 Q. Can you recall telling Norman Temple that you had been
4 followed, and naming two people?
- 5 A. I can't recall that, no.
- 6 Q. Did you ever try to destabilise the INLSF through your
7 actions as an undercover police officer?
- 8 A. What could I do to destabilise Ed Davoren? It was --
9 no.
- 10 Q. It's been suggested that you told Norman Temple after
11 the meeting that you'd been followed, and you named
12 people from both sides of the factional divide within
13 the meeting, and that that would have further
14 destabilised the meeting. Is there anything that you
15 would like to say about that?
- 16 A. The only thing is, I mean, you're now into the politics
17 of a group, and I certainly wasn't involved in
18 the splits in the group, and I didn't even realise that
19 there was a split in the group between O'Neill and
20 Davoren at the time. So, no, I didn't do anything to
21 destabilise it, and I didn't know anything about it,
22 because that allegation of me being a police officer was
23 completely out the blue on that afternoon.
- 24 Q. Did you ask O'Neill what evidence he had for
25 the allegation?

- 1 A. No, but looking back, I could see that because of
2 previous things that had happened, then they -- they
3 would obviously be suspicious of me.
- 4 Q. Now, when you -- I see.
5 Do you know whether or not they had researched your
6 background?
- 7 A. I do not have a clue about that.
- 8 Q. I'd like to move on now to a report which is dated
9 August 1971, and it's a mailing list. I think -- would
10 you like to see it again, or do you know the one I'm
11 referring to?
- 12 A. I think I know the one you're referring to, yes.
- 13 Q. In August 1971, for those following the transcript,
14 a report with your name on it submits a list of people
15 who were on the mailing list of the INLSF.
16 Did you get any particular praise for submitting
17 this list?
- 18 A. I don't think I've ever had any praise in my police
19 service. No, I didn't get any specific praise, no.
- 20 Q. How long after the emergency conference on 26 and
21 27 June was it before you withdrew from your deployment?
- 22 A. I think in fact, thinking about it, I probably withdrew
23 straight away.
- 24 Q. If you withdrew straight away, can you explain why
25 the report about the conference itself is dated 16 July

1 and the report with the mailing list 7 August. Why is
2 there such a delay after your withdrawal before
3 the submission of these reports?

4 A. When did I withdraw? When was that original meeting in
5 Golders Green that I --

6 Q. 26 and 27 June.

7 A. I don't know. I -- I honestly do not know.

8 Q. Can we move now to one or two miscellaneous matters.
9 Can we have up, please, {MPS/739491}. And if we can
10 scroll down, please, to the report that follows a minute
11 sheet. {MPS/739491/2}. And can we scroll down a little
12 bit, so we can see the whole of the paragraph that is
13 presently at the bottom of the page. Thank you.

14 This report reads -- the material part reads:

15 "Following this [Privacy] asked for volunteers to
16 attend the Central Criminal Court on February 8 to
17 demonstrate against the trial of Roche. There were 17
18 volunteers. Davoren stated that the INLSF would not
19 combine with other Irish organisations but would picket
20 separately. The legal position regarding the picket
21 outside the court was still under discussion with
22 the group's solicitor ..."

23 Then we've redacted the solicitor's name for privacy
24 reasons.

25 Does it follow from the evidence that you've given

1 to date that from your point of view, there was no
2 reason why you shouldn't report a solicitor's name?

3 A. Not really. I never thought any more about it at the
4 time.

5 Q. And did your managers say anything to you about having
6 reported a solicitor's name?

7 A. No. I mean, if they wanted it redacted, then they would
8 have done so. But no. I mean, I'm just passing it on
9 to fellow police officers who can deal with it in
10 the way they feel the matter should be dealt with.

11 Q. Thank you.

12 Can we take that document down, please, and can we
13 have up in its place {MPS/739319}, and if we could go to
14 the main body of the report, please, {MPS/739319/2}.
15 This is a report dated 8 June 1971. Could we go to
16 the bottom of the page, please.

17 Paragraph 8 at the bottom of the page reads:

18 "[Privacy] spoke on the visit she had made with
19 [Privacy] [Privacy] to the mother of the Turkish Cypriot
20 woman detained in Holloway Prison whilst Home Office
21 made a decision on her appeal to remain in this country
22 with her three children. The Home Office decision was
23 expected on Monday and the organisation would reserve an
24 opinion until the decision was made."

25 Did you report this because of what it was, or did

1 you report this simply because it was something covered
2 at the meeting?

3 A. Something covered at the meeting. I can't even remember
4 the paragraph, quite honestly.

5 Q. Can we take that down now, please.

6 I'm going to ask you one or two general questions
7 now. Did you ever feel during the course of your
8 deployment that you were reporting on a political
9 organisation in a way that was unnecessary?

10 A. Well, when you say "unnecessary", I mean, if they're
11 going to be subversive or going to be violent, then, no.
12 And I think you have to be in an organisation to
13 discover what their ethos is and how they're going to
14 react. And looking back on it now, I would have say
15 that, yeah, it was a waste of time.

16 Q. Once you had established, in your words, that it was
17 a Mickey Mouse outfit, did you ever discuss that with
18 your managers about whether it was worth continuing to
19 infiltrate them?

20 A. No, I didn't. I didn't think it was my place. I felt
21 that after I discussed things with them and also they
22 saw the reports, it would be for them to make
23 the judgment of whether or not the work was necessary.

24 Q. Do you think that through your written reports and
25 through your oral reports at the meetings in the safe

1 house that you had given your managers a clear picture
2 of what the group was, what it was doing and whether or
3 not it posed a threat to public order or to
4 parliamentary democracy?

5 A. Yeah, I think that I gave them a clear picture as far as
6 I could do it, because we have to remember, as we've
7 discussed previously, I was not allowed into the inner
8 core of the group, which is where the major decisions
9 were probably made. So all I'm -- I'm on the periphery
10 listening to things and decisions they've made. And
11 that's all I can tell you.

12 Q. After you withdrew from the organisation having been
13 compromised, did any senior managers come to speak to
14 you about how to deal with that?

15 A. Well, I don't know how you mean how to deal with it.
16 Were they worried I was going to be found out, somebody
17 was going to come and assault me, somebody was going to
18 come and murder me. Now, if that had happened, then it
19 would have happened while I was still within the group,
20 because if you're going to expose someone, as they tried
21 to do with me, then they had adequate opportunity when
22 I was away with them to dispose of me.

23 Q. I wasn't so much thinking of that, I was thinking about
24 whether any managers spoke to you about what you should
25 say if you were confronted by anybody about your service

1 in the SDS?

2 A. Well, I didn't think it was going to happen 50 years
3 later, so they probably didn't think about that. No.

4 Q. You've told us that you've got some recollection of
5 senior officers visiting the SDS. Can I just test what
6 it is that you might remember. Can you remember where
7 these visits took place?

8 A. At the safe house.

9 Q. Can you remember what level of seniority we are talking
10 about?

11 A. I think it was -- as far as I can remember, most of
12 it -- we might have had somebody above it, but it was
13 always a chief inspector and an inspector.

14 MR BARR: I've just been passed a message asking for us to
15 stop. So if we could just take a break there, please.

16 MR FERNANDES: Ladies and gentlemen, we will now take
17 a break. The time is now 3.40 pm, so we shall reconvene
18 at 3.50 pm.

19 Thank you.

20 (3.40 pm)

21 (A short break)

22 (3.56 pm)

23 MR FERNANDES: Good afternoon, everyone, and thank you for
24 your patience. I will now hand over to the Chairman to
25 continue proceedings.

1 Chairman.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

3 As you've all noticed, this is the third
4 interruption today. On this occasion a storm in
5 a teacup. Please bear with us, we're learning as we go
6 along and these mishaps are bound occasionally to occur.

7 Mr Barr.

8 MR BARR: Thank you, Sir.

9 347, we're almost there. We were talking about
10 visits to the SDS by senior officers. Can you remember
11 any top brass coming to visit the SDS?

12 A. No, I have to say I can't remember. They probably did
13 but I just can't remember any names.

14 Q. I see.

15 Can you recall a colleague of yours, Mike Ferguson?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Can you help us with whether you learned anything in
18 your role as an officer about what Mike Ferguson did in
19 the Anti-Apartheid Movement or the Stop the Seventy Tour
20 campaign?

21 A. No.

22 Q. In particular, can you recall whether anyone told you
23 anything about whether or not he assumed any prominent
24 positions within either of those organisations?

25 A. I have to say, I have a very vague memory of something

1 of that nature, but to bring it to the forefront, I just
2 wouldn't know.

3 Q. Do you know whether or not your managers would have been
4 aware of Mike Ferguson's role within those
5 organisations, whatever it was?

6 A. Oh, no. That is complete conjecture. I just wouldn't
7 want to say anything about that. I just do not know.

8 Q. Do you know whether or not your managers were pleased or
9 otherwise with Mike Ferguson's work within
10 the Anti-Apartheid Movement and the Stop the Seventy
11 campaign?

12 A. If you could help me here. When was Mike Ferguson in
13 this organisation? Do you have any dates?

14 Q. The Stop the Seventy Tour was a campaign that ran from
15 summer/autumn of 1969 through to around May 1970.
16 The Anti-Apartheid Movement was running throughout --
17 the material period is the late 60s early 70s.

18 A. No, I have no recollection of that.

19 MR BARR: Thank you.

20 Those are all the questions I have for you. We now
21 have to have a short break while other lawyers can take
22 instructions from their clients and decide whether to
23 propose any further questions for you. And after that
24 break, we'll let you know one way or the other.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

1 Thank you for giving it.

2 It is fascinating to me listening to two honest
3 witnesses describing unusual events 50 years ago from
4 slightly different points of view. It brings them to
5 life in a way that things on paper don't.

6 Thank you.

7 A. You're welcome.

8 MR FERNANDES: Thank you, everyone. The hearings have now
9 finished for the day. We shall resume at 10.00 am
10 tomorrow.

11 (4.14 pm)

12 (The hearing adjourned until 10.00 am on Wednesday,
13 28 April 2021)

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19

20

21

22

23

24

25

INDEX

PAGE

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

HN45 "Dave Robertson" (called)4
 Questions by MS WILKINSON4
 Questions by THE CHAIRMAN84
 Further questions by MS WILKINSON86
HN347 (called)91
 Questions by MR BARR92