



4 April 1978

Our Ref: 588/UNREG/694 Pt II
Your Ref: QPE/66 1/8/5

Robert Andrew Esq
Deputy Under Secretary of State
Home Office
London SW1

Dear

1. I am writing to seek authority for the continuation of the Special Demonstration Squad working within Special Branch which as you are aware was first set up in 1968.

2. The objectives of the Squad remain as before, that of obtaining, by penetration, intelligence unavailable from other sources regarding the activities of ultra-left, revolutionary and anarchist organisations intent on the disruption of public order and the perpetration of serious political crime in the Metropolis.

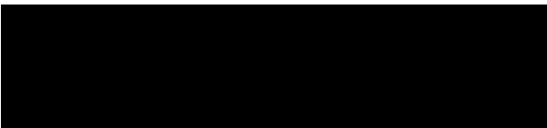
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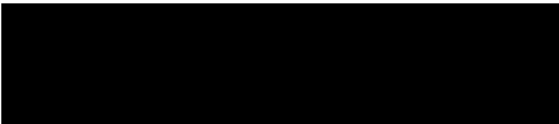


4. 1977 saw the escalation and eruption of street violence in London in the Grunwick's industrial dispute and the confrontations between extreme right and left-wing political parties which reached its zenith in the Lewisham street battle in August. Throughout these confrontations the intelligence supplied by the Special Demonstration Squad of the numbers and intent of the numerous revolutionary parties enabled the Uniform Branch to effectively and economically police some of the most violent public disorder in recent times.

5. The forecast for 1978 is that such street violence in the Metropolis will continue especially in the confrontation between the extreme right and ultra left and such opposition would, of course, be aggravated by any form of national elections; the National Front have already stated their intention of fielding 318 candidates should a General Election materialize.

6. Amongst other sources of public order disruption currently being studied are the possible demonstrations against the use of nuclear power and its attendant activities which would, of course, be exacerbated by the ultra left, and the sinister growth of anarchist groups in support of international terrorism.





7. Security surrounding the activities of the Squad, which consists of twelve officers purely operational in the field, is maintained at a very high level with a Chief Superintendent and Superintendent ensuring the closest individual supervision; a deep interest is, of course, constantly maintained in the Squad's activities by the Commissioner and myself.

8. One of the two headquarters flats and three individual 'cover' flats have been changed during the year for security and operational reasons and the difficulty of obtaining suitable alternative accommodation of this kind remains a perennial one of shortage and increasing costs in the areas of London where such property is required.

9. The use of second-hand cars for operational officers remains an invaluable asset enabling them to operate more economically and securely and increasing their efficiency in the task of penetrating revolutionary organisations.

10. The budget of £9,800 for the financial year 1977/78 has proved adequate; expenditure in the first nine months of the financial year 1977/78 was £6,845 and the last three months was not expected to exceed £2,500. Approximately £500 of the annual budget of £9,800 will therefore remain undrawn.

11. This small surplus has been due to the fact that for operational reasons the Squad has been on average one under strength in the field for 1978 and the effects of inflation on the cost of living causing increased charges for domestic services, escalation of rental charges and incidental operational expenses some increase in the budget will clearly be required for the forthcoming year; it is therefore requested that an increase of £1,400 be granted making the budget for the financial year 1978/79 £11,200, an increase of just over 13%.

12. I would, therefore, be grateful if formal approval could be given to the Squad continuing to work as at present for a further twelve months.

Yours

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G J Kelland
Assistant Commissioner (Crime)

