

70A

File No. / /

Minute Sheet No.

1.

SDS notes re Lewisham anti-National Front demonstration 1A

Chief Superintendent 'S' Squad

1. The notes prepared by DI Willingale represent comments made by individual SDS officers following the Lewisham fracas.

2. In conversation with those concerned the point most forcibly made was that the degree of violence contemplated by groups of the ultra-left is escalating steadily. It is generally held that police are facing a new challenge in their efforts to keep political protest within the bounds of the law and methods must be devised urgently whereby violent groups on demonstrations can be swiftly identified, isolated and neutralised.

1

SB
2.9.77

G.T.M. Craft
Chief Inspector

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2.

Commander Ops

1. Herewith the SDS paper you asked for following the Lewisham affair.

2. What emerges most clearly from these notes is the opinion that the police must now seriously contemplate a change of direction and policy in the handling of Public Order situations - with emphasis on the necessary specialist training and deployment for such situations; the development of a highly trained elitist force (SPG?) is clearly indicated. Such a suggestion will obviously bring bleats of protest and references to the dreaded CRS and similar forces, but, as the Americans would say, we must accept that we are entering now a new ball-game in the field of public protest.

3. The suggestions put forward in this paper are not by any means original (for example, the 'Guardian' has recently been running a four-part essay on this subject), but you may agree that the opinions of our "men on the ground" should be seriously listened to.

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COSB
2.9.77

Chief Superintendent

3

Commander Ops

1 As you are aware, DAC asked me to arrange a meeting between representatives of the SDS and DAC 'A' (Ops); the latter had expressed willingness to hear the views of the SDS on the police handling of a serious public order situation, such as Lewisham, Grunwicks, etc., as seen from the viewpoint of (a) the extreme

[redacted]
left-wing and (b) experienced but under cover police officers in the field.

2. This morning, I introduced DCs [redacted] ⁴ HN13 and [redacted] ⁵ HN303 to DAC 'A' Ops; they were accompanied by DCI Pryde and DI Willingale, the supervising officers of the SDS.

3 I was not present during the discussion that followed, but I later learned from the above officers that Mr Helm listened attentively to their views and told them of certain changes that had already been made in police tactics in the public order field. Mr Helm apparently expressed his appreciation for the opportunity of meeting the officers, and look forward to similar meetings in future.

[redacted] ⁶
Chief Superintendent

SB 4.11.77

4.

DOE
This is the first time that SDS officers have spoken with DOE 'A' (Ops) direct. Mr Helm displayed great interest and the SDS officers, who had "appointed their spokesmen" are very pleased that the opportunity has been made for them to assist their uniform colleagues in this way.

SB
4/11/77

[Handwritten signature]

[redacted] ⁷

[redacted] San Francisco. I know as DAC 'A' Ops' views this covered with [redacted]

[redacted]
7/11/77

[redacted] ⁸
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