

Policy File

2/18/10
S to see

Copied to : [REDACTED]

Separate copies to F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7

Note for file

1. Bob Bryan visited F and FX on 13 October for a discussion about collaboration between MPSB and F Branch in the identification of targets and the allocation of investigative resources. In preparation for this discussion he had conducted a review of MPSB targetting and coverage. As a result, he was clear that it needed overhauling.
2. I explained the relationship with provincial police forces which enabled us annually to agree targets and priorities for agent coverage. I expressed the hope that, although MPSB might not wish to enter into a relationship of exactly that kind, particularly as regards agents, we might nevertheless be able to co-ordinate our activities to ensure that they were complementary.
3. Bryan agreed that unnecessary duplication was most certainly to be avoided. He also agreed that it was essential to co-ordinate activities against politically sensitive targets so as to avoid unnecessary risks, eg [REDACTED]
4. The main points to emerge from a lengthy discussion were as follows:
 - a. [REDACTED]
 - b. He did not propose that MPSB should depart from its traditional attitude towards agent running, ie of preferring to use informants rather than agents. He recognised, and intended to do something about, the problems which arise from MPSB officers declining to identify their informants, thus rendering source assessment impossible and diminishing the value of their information.

/c.

c. He agreed that MPSB should assist us by talent-spotting and by giving priority to background enquiries about potential sources (provided we identified these priority enquiries in some way).

d. 

5. It was agreed that as a first step towards improving collaboration (the action already taken between F6/F7 and E Squad over racial problems was noted) was for meetings to be held between the sections concerned to consider existing coverage of targets:

- a. F7 (+ F6) to review the Ultra Left with C Squad and the Ultra Right and racial matters with E Squad.
- b. F2 (+ F4) to review the coverage of subversion in industry with C Squad.

6. It was agreed also that:

- a. The officers of ELS (E Squad) should be briefed by F3 on the UKCLO and the work of F3.
- b. Overall reviews of coverage and collaboration should take place six monthly.
- c. There should be more co-ordination of the agenda of national Special Branch conferences. On the next occasion on 19 October F2 should contribute to item 3 on Grunwick and F3 to item 12 on the ELS and UKCLO.

7. Other matters discussed included:

- a. The exchange of officers between F3 and ELS. I explained the background to this exchange. It was agreed that it should continue on the same basis as at present.
- b. The problems for the exchange between European Services of intelligence on terrorist matters posed by the conduct of the  and its 

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withdrawal from the [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. It was agreed that there should be further
consultation about this before the Meeting of
Senior Officials in Brussels on 8 November.

- c. The withdrawal of MPSB officers from Ports outside
the MPD. Bryan had the Commissioner's approval
to do this. It would make for problems for the
other forces concerned but was essential in view
of the burdens on SB. Bryan thought that travel
control generally was now so weak as to warrant
being reviewed in the light of the terrorist threat.

[REDACTED]

F
14 October 1977