

F. through F/1. and F.4.

M.P.S.B. and Subversion in Industry.

You may like to see the attached eleven page report from the Metropolitan Special Branch dealing with industrial unrest in the Port industry during 1972, (Annex A). You may also like to compare it with the attached press cutting from the Daily Telegraph which appeared at the end of July, (Annex B). Whole sentences and paragraphs are identical.

2. The report is not an analysis of the degree of subversive involvement either nationally or in the Metropolitan area. Neither is it a comprehensive account of industrial unrest in the docks on a national basis this year, though it purports to be so. It is grossly inaccurate on matters of fact, incomplete, emotive, and contains unsubstantiated comments and assumptions. Detailed comments are at Annex C.

3. [redacted] in the Police Department of the Home Office has told me that Fergusson Smith sent him a copy of this report.

4. During the docks dispute we have had little security intelligence from Special Branch on the situation in the London docks. Despite repeated requests M.P.S.B. have failed to produce information about the membership of [redacted] a [redacted] Committee and the proceedings of its meetings. This should be the first priority target of M.P.S.B. One can only conclude that they have no agent coverage. On the other hand, it must be said, the M.P.S.B. have produced useful reports on mass meetings, picketing, and demonstrations obtained, apparently, from direct observation or attendance at mass meetings. Some other information has been produced which has derived largely from contact with employers, or, as in the case of the present report, from the press.

5. The effort devoted to this attached report, which is of no value either to us or to any other Department, would have been much better spent on developing sources to provide intelligence about subversive activities in the Port of London [redacted]

6. It is for consideration whether, because Special Branch do not see Subinds, they may feel that this report supplies a need which is not otherwise being met.

/7. A report

7. A report from Special Branch on the Powerworkers dispute is at Annex D. It states that rank and file members of the unions involved are likely to call for a ban on overtime from early October. At the time this report was received this information was not corroborated [REDACTED]. George WAKE had said that industrial action would be taken in January 1973 if the claim had not then been settled. If Special Branch's information had been accurate it would have been most important. When asked to give an assessment of the reliability of this information they were unable to do so and said that the information had subsequently been proved wrong. (Since the announcement of the Government's Incomes Policy WAKE has become more militant, but the policy had not been announced at the time of this report.)

8. At Annex E and F are two reports said to be from a reliable but delicate source on the activities of Hugh SCANLON and the A.U.E.W. If M.P.S.B. have [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

9. In submitting [REDACTED] to F.4. earlier this year we drew attention to the unsatisfactory supply of security intelligence on industrial and trade union matters from M.P.S.B. and the [REDACTED] in this essential area. These reports highlight the present unsatisfactory state of affairs,

10. We shall continue to try and establish closer contact with the officers working for Chief Inspector [REDACTED] in the industrial field, but are unlikely radically to alter their method of approach.

11. I shall be grateful for advice as to whether we should write to the Home Office and/or to M.P.S.B. about the content of the report on the docks dispute and its similarity to the Daily Telegraph.

[REDACTED]

F.1.A [REDACTED]

2 October 1972.

[REDACTED]