

NoteRelations with M.P.S.B. about Industrial Subversion

On 6 December 1972 I discussed with Colin Woods (AC Crime) and Vic Gilbert the possibility of our obtaining increased assistance from M.P.S.B. in our coverage of subversion in industry. F.4. [REDACTED] was present.

2. I explained to Woods that we were under increasing pressure from Whitehall (as Vic Gilbert knew from his membership of the Waddell Group) for more and more detailed information about subversive activities in industrial disputes and the degree of subversive influence in trades unions. We needed to increase our agent coverage of industrial affairs, particularly in the Metropolitan Area, [REDACTED]

3. I said that although our industrial desk had a useful liaison with M.P.S.B. C Squad about industrial activity it was mainly productive of overt information about demonstrations and public meetings. What we needed was long term agent penetration of subversive groups active in the unions rather than casual informant sources. We had some success with Provincial forces in this field.

4. Colin Woods said that, having consulted the Commissioner (Bob Mark) he did not want to get M.P.S.B. involved in running agents in trades unions. M.P.S.B.'s role should be to collect information (e.g. about likely law and order trouble spots) on which police executive action could be taken. It [REDACTED] would be politically embarrassing for the police to be involved in this field.

5. At this point I explained that the Security Service [REDACTED] within its Charter, investigated the activities of subversive groups and individuals in industry. Since "subversion in industry" was listed in the responsibilities of C Squad of M.P.S.B. I had assumed that M.P.S.B. could be similarly targetted.

6. Woods appreciated these points but said that he remained opposed to M.P.S.B. becoming involved in agent running [REDACTED] in this field, not least because he had serious staff shortages within CID and was contemplating raiding SB (who had a high proportion of experienced manpower) for CID purposes. He had no objection to M.P.S.B. assisting us in talent spotting but the job [REDACTED]

/7. In...

[REDACTED]

7. In subsequent discussion with Vic Gilbert, Rollo Watts and [REDACTED] of C Squad we agreed that F.4 should have an early meeting with Commander C Squad with the object of defining targets and assets. It was clear from this discussion that AC Crime's ruling about agent running in trades unions was an embarrassment to M.P.S.B. because

[REDACTED]

Special Branch was already collecting intelligence in this area.

J.L. Jones

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