

LOOSE MINUTE

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I called on Chief Superintendent Rollo Watts on 11 January. He has been in charge of C Squad for about three months but for a number of reasons (which he did not explain) has only been in his office for about three weeks of this time.

2. I explained very briefly who I was and said something about the functions of F1B. I reminded him that we had had a close operational relationship with the old X Squad. Now that X Squad had been combined with C Squad and he had taken over command from Chief Superintendent Dixon I would welcome his views on the continuation of our liaison. If it were to continue in its old shape, with whom should we liaise?

3. Watts said that there had been three groups within SB charged with gathering information about the extreme left - C Squad, the rump of X Squad and Inspector **HN294**'s "hairies". He did not think this was a satisfactory situation and proposed to take steps to end it. He had not yet succeeded in taking over full control of the "hairies" but he had given Chief Inspector **HN324** and his men a precise function within C Squad. He did not think that they could continue to devote so much effort to studying what remained of the Angry Brigade (whatever that was). C Squad was now divided into two halves, each with a Chief Inspector in charge. Chief Inspector [redacted] would be responsible for the Communist sections; Chief Inspector **HN324** would be responsible for that part which studied the extreme left, including Trotskyists, Maoists, Anarchists and the Angry Brigade. Chief Inspector [redacted] would remain as coordinator of the Squad and would act as his (Watts') deputy when he was not available. For the time being, those members of Mr. **HN324**' old squad who had been posted to C Squad (about 12 men) would be engaged full time in writing up their activities over the past two years - an activity which, Watts said, they had apparently not had time for. Watts spoke of the need to identify the hard core of violent anarchists (about 15 people) and their immediate circle of sympathisers (about 70 people), and to record what SB knew of them for future operational use.

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4. He invited FlB to deal direct with Chief Inspector [HN324] who would keep him informed. [redacted] (who was present at the discussion) seemed not entirely happy about this development, stressing the need to have someone in command who was constantly in the picture, and obviously implying that Watts should nominate him as the one and only point for liaison. Watts, however, did not agree.

5. Other points which emerged in discussion were:

- (a) [redacted] insisted, and was backed up by Watts, that FlB desk officers should not deal direct with sergeants and inspectors in C Squad but with the Chief Inspector who controlled the extreme left sections ([HN324]). [redacted] also stressed that it was bad security to use an outside line to pass information to Special Branch and urged us to use only the [redacted] line which sits between his and Watts' desk. Watts again agreed but made it clear that Chief Inspector [redacted] or Chief Inspector [HN324] could easily be summoned to answer calls on the [redacted] if necessary.
- (b) Watts is very interested in seeing a copy of [redacted]'s paper on the Alternative Society. He agrees that the Alternative Society is worthy of study but is conscious of the difficulties of distinguishing those parts of it which are of security interest.
- (c) SB have an Inspector who is currently on the intermediate course at Bramshill. Watts has told him to write a thesis on International Terrorism and its UK Links. I commented that F3 had just completed such a paper and invited Watts to have a word with [redacted] who had put it together.

6. Watts was friendly, relaxed and fairly well informed despite his lack of C Squad experience. He asked a number of questions about what I thought to be the relationship between C Squad and Fl, and did not disagree with the view I put forward that it consisted of overlapping spheres of interest. I said it was

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important to know exactly where the overlap lay so as to avoid duplication of effort. He appears to draw a distinction between what he calls political matters, and law and order matters; the former he believes to be the responsibility of the Security Service, the latter of SB.

*Spencer
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7. I will circulate a copy of this minute to F1B officers for their information.



F1B 

16 January 1973