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Sect/[REDACTED] to see before PA

Note for File

Policy File

I went to see Chief Superintendent Wilson, C Squad, MPSB at his request on 22 September 1975. He began by saying, ominously, that he wished to discuss a case of unauthorised access involving a member of F1B. He explained that [REDACTED] and Chief Inspector [REDACTED] TN0038 [REDACTED] had discussed the possibility of a member of SDS visiting the new WRP Education Centre in Derby. [REDACTED] TN0038 had no authority, he said, even to mention the SDS which was one of MPSB's most closely protected secrets. Quite apart from the fact that the existence of this special squad was simply not to be discussed in this way (Wilson maintained that few members of the Security Service even knew of it), he speculated on what would happen if the Derbyshire Police should discover that MPSB were operating in their area without permission or even consultation.

2. [REDACTED] TN0038 had been severely reprimanded by both Wilson and Mr Gilbert. Before I could give him my version of this affair (about which I knew) Wilson effectively spiked my guns by saying that he still did not think that he had heard the full truth from [REDACTED] TN0038. The implication was, I think, that he thought that [REDACTED] TN0038 might have actually given us the name of the member of the SDS involved but as I have no idea what [REDACTED] TN0038 had said to Wilson I thought it as well to say nothing.

3. I explained that I had personally negotiated with Wilson's predecessor Rollo Watts an arrangement whereby F1B desk officers could deal direct with the C Squad Chief Inspectors. [REDACTED] "access" to [REDACTED] TN0038 was in these terms wholly authorised. Wilson replied that C Squad was now organised differently - these Chief Inspectors were no longer specialist officers heading specialist sub-sections within the Squad but merely officers in the Squad hierarchy. In future he wanted all requests for information or for action to be directed to him or to Superintendent [REDACTED] on MPSB's [REDACTED] Ext 28. (He implied that [REDACTED] TN0038 would no

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longer be visiting us regularly for briefings as he had done in the past). Information which we needed to pass by telephone to MPSB, eg about forthcoming demonstrations should be passed not to him or [REDACTED] but to Special Branch Reserve on [REDACTED] Ext 20; they could record it properly and submit it to C Squad.

4. I undertook to have the necessary instructions issued; I also said how helpful and efficient we had found [REDACTED] TN0038 (but I sensed that more praise might well condemn [REDACTED] TN0038 further in Wilson's eyes).

5. Having got this off his chest Wilson relaxed and went on to describe in detail his attitude to the reorganisation of C Squad - he hoped to achieve maximum flexibility and speed of response and to avoid sterile specialisation. It was for this reason that he had sharply reduced the number of specialists, preferring to concentrate on a territorial organisation. He continued with a forthright attack on his Commissioner who, he said, had virtually destroyed the Metropolitan CID and might do the same to Special Branch. He concluded by inviting me to lunch (I could not accept) and by apologising if he seemed obstructive. Finally he invited me to write to him setting out in detail what we need to know about the new WRP Education Centre in Derbyshire (the subject of the [REDACTED] TN0038 / [REDACTED] sys [REDACTED] discussions). If information on the points we had raised should come his way he would know our areas of interest and would see that we got what we wanted!

[REDACTED]
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25 September 1975