

Thursday, 6 May 2021

(10.00 am)

MR FERNANDES: Good morning, everyone, and welcome to Day 11 of hearings in Tranche 1 Phase 2 at the Undercover Policing Inquiry.

My name is Neil Fernandes and I am the hearings manager. For those of you in the virtual hearing room, please turn off both your camera and microphone unless you are invited to speak by the Chairman, as Zoom will pick up on all noises and you will be on screen.

I will now hand over to the Chairman, Sir John Mitting, to formally start proceedings. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

Ms Campbell.

Summary of evidence of the family of HN300/"Jim Pickford"

MS CAMPBELL: Thank you, Sir.

I will begin by summarising the statement given to the Inquiry by the family of HN300; cover name "Jim Pickford".

The statement was made in December 2017, during the course of the Inquiry's anonymity proceedings, and is a joint statement by HN300's second wife, to whom he was married during his deployment, and his two daughters. HN300 is now deceased.

1 Due to the nature of this statement, I'll be
2 summarising certain sections and reading others in full.
3 The full statement will be published on the Inquiry's
4 website today.

5 The statement begins with the family stating their
6 concerns about the real name of HN300 being disclosed
7 through the Inquiry. They note that HN300 was given an
8 assurance of anonymity by the police during his time in
9 the SDS. They say:

10 "Before commencing deployment as an
11 undercover police officer, our late ex-husband/father
12 was given assurances that his identity (real and cover)
13 would never be released. He operated under the belief
14 that his identity, and therefore his personal safety and
15 that of his family, would be safeguarded and assured.
16 This was of paramount importance to him, and he
17 mentioned this to us a great many times. He also
18 focused much of his time talking to us as children and
19 adolescents about the importance of being vigilant, not
20 divulging information and maintaining a level of
21 suspicion of any individual/organisation seeking
22 information (no matter how innocuous it seemed) through
23 overt or covert means. While he would talk freely about
24 his general police work, he never talked about his
25 undercover work."

1 They note that HN300 did change his physical
2 appearance for his deployment, by growing his hair and
3 beard, but that he would still be recognisable to
4 the public due to his distinct facial features and
5 mannerisms.

6 When describing the impact that HN300's deployment
7 had on the family, they state that he would "disappear
8 for long periods of time with no way of contacting him",
9 and that, "there were no emergency contact details given
10 to his wife, and no support during his absences".

11 They continue:

12 "In order to safeguard his identity at home, he
13 would park his cover vehicle away from the family home.
14 He mostly returned home during the evening and
15 night-time, with only occasional contact prior to his
16 arrival. This caused considerable disruption to any
17 sort of family routine, especially since both children
18 were very young.

19 "In order to preserve anonymity and to avoid
20 compromise of cover, there were no joint social
21 engagements (ie no attendance to social gatherings or
22 visits to friends or entertaining in the home) as
23 a married couple, leaving his wife extremely isolated
24 whilst trying to bring up two small children.

25 "His wife had no family living in the UK, making her

1 reliant upon close friends, which she was not able to
2 speak with or seek support from at any time in relation
3 to her family circumstances. Joint socialising with
4 existing friends (including fellow police officers) was
5 minimal, so she had few sources of support to help her
6 with the children whilst she brought them up effectively
7 as a single parent. This resulted in her being socially
8 vulnerable and alone. There was no support available to
9 her from the Special Branch at any time."

10 The family continues by describing a relationship
11 that HN300 engaged in while undercover:

12 "During the time he was working undercover, he began
13 a relationship with a woman whom his wife had become
14 aware of. We do not know how or where they met. This,
15 coupled with the great strain placed upon their marriage
16 and family life by the various challenges and demands of
17 his deployment, resulted in divorce from our family
18 a year after his undercover deployment ended.

19 "He later married the woman. We all met her, and we
20 children went on some family holidays with her and our
21 dad, although we were young at the time. This marriage
22 also ended in divorce some years later. This woman then
23 moved ... and it has been impossible to locate/contact
24 her."

25 The family note that HN300 had a child with this

1 woman, the daughter's half-brother, but that he would
2 have adopted a different surname when his mother
3 remarried.

4 With regards to HN300's cover name, the family say:

5 "We do not know our ex-husband/dad's cover details
6 because he never spoke about them. However, his later
7 wife sometimes used to call him 'Jimmy' and that has
8 made us wonder if he used that as an alternative name."

9 The statement continues by describing HN300's later
10 postings within the police, including details of
11 public-facing roles. The family also note their concern
12 about "unscrupulous individuals from HN300's later life
13 seeking to profit from his story should his real name be
14 made public".

15 The family note their concerns about the risk of
16 members from infiltrated groups tracing them online or
17 in person. They note that:

18 "We do not know for certain what groups he
19 infiltrated whilst deployed, but we firmly believed he
20 infiltrated at least two groups with a high level of
21 risk/danger, one of which is still active in another
22 form today. We remember how vigilant he made us be."

23 The family continue by noting the impact of
24 the Inquiry on their wellbeing, and describe the effect
25 that HN300's deployment had on their welfare. They

1 state:

2 "This process has necessitated long searches within
3 our past memories and experiences, which are of a time
4 when situations were difficult and painful. For us
5 children, it has been exceptionally difficult for us to
6 hear of times when our mother was left alone and
7 unsupported whilst trying her best to care for us. We
8 have at times disagreed amongst ourselves about what
9 the best course is, and that has added extra distress.
10 It is also particularly stressful to anticipate what
11 information may come to light regarding the father we
12 thought we knew.

13 "We are aware of some aspects of his undercover
14 work, which have been pieced together over time.
15 However, our late ex-husband/father was incredibly
16 stringent in maintaining secrecy. Therefore, we simply
17 do not know the nature of information that may be
18 uncovered as a result of the Inquiry, and the fear of
19 the unknown is causing us excessive worry.

20 "Throughout the years, we have all upheld our
21 obligations of confidentiality in relation to the work
22 he undertook. Consequently, the notion of this
23 information being released leaves us with a feeling of
24 betrayal, particularly in the case of his ex-wife, who
25 has not given any support during the deployment or

1 subsequently following the collapse of the marriage."

2 The statement concludes by providing details of
3 the risks the family believes they would be exposed to
4 should HN300's real name be released and details of
5 the family's current circumstances.

6 The statement is signed by HN300's former wife, and
7 dated 22 December 2017.

8 Statement of the widow of HN13.

9 MS CAMPBELL: Sir, I will now continue by reading

10 the statement provided to the Inquiry by the widow of
11 HN13 {MPS/740967/3}. Due to the short length of this
12 statement, I will read it in full.

13 This is the first witness statement of the former
14 wife of HN13:

15 "I have been asked to provide a witness statement
16 for the purpose of assisting the Undercover
17 Policing Inquiry.

18 "I am the widow of HN13, a former SDS officer.
19 I make this statement in relation to the cover name used
20 by my husband during his SDS deployment.

21 "The surname of the cover used by my husband was
22 Loader. I knew that it belonged to a deceased child
23 from Wiltshire. I came to be aware of this part of my
24 husband's cover name because he told me what it was. He
25 also told me it was the surname of a deceased child. My

1 husband never told me what first name or name(s) he
2 used. I do not remember the exact circumstances of how
3 I came to be aware of this aspect of his cover name or
4 when I first became aware of it. It only had to be said
5 once for it to be imprinted in my mind.

6 "I used to work [in the West Country]. I would
7 often come across people with that surname through my
8 work and this reminded me of the cover name. It is not
9 an unusual name in the West Country."

10 And the statement is designed and dated
11 20 August 2019.

12 Sir, that concludes the summary of the statements
13 for today.

14 In addition to publishing both of those documents,
15 the Inquiry will also be publishing documents related to
16 the officer HN296, cover name "Geoff Wallace".

17 This officer was deployed between mid-1975 and
18 late-1978, primarily into the Hammersmith branch and the
19 inner West London district of the International
20 Socialists.

21 The Inquiry's analysis of those documents can be
22 found at page 184 to 191 of appendix 2 to
23 Counsel to the Inquiry's opening statement for Tranche 1
24 Phase 2.

25 Thank you, Sir.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

2 We will now have a ten-minute break while technical
3 arrangements permit us to hear the evidence of
4 Celia Stubbs.

5 MR FERNANDES: Good morning, everyone. We will now take
6 a break. May I remind those in the virtual hearing room
7 to remember to join your break-out rooms, please.

8 The time is now 10.15, so we shall reconvene at
9 10.25 am. Thank you.

10 (10.12 am)

11 (A short break)

12 (10.25 am)

13 MR FERNANDES: Good morning, everyone and welcome back.

14 I will now hand over to the Chairman to continue
15 proceedings.

16 Chairman.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

18 As at the beginning of every live evidential
19 session, a recording is going to be played. If you're
20 listening to it for the first time, please listen
21 carefully.

22 I am conducting this Inquiry under a statute,
23 the Inquiries Act 2005, which gives me the power to make
24 orders regulating the conduct of the Inquiry, including
25 its hearings. In the exercise of that power I have made

1 a number of orders which affect what you and may not do
2 in the hearing rooms and after you leave them. Breach
3 of any of the orders is a serious matter and may have
4 serious consequences for you.

5 If I am satisfied that a person may have breached an
6 order, I have the power to certify the matter to
7 the High Court, which will investigate and deal with it
8 as if it had been a contempt of that court. If
9 satisfied that a breach has occurred and merits
10 the imposition of a penalty, the High Court may impose
11 a severe sanction on the person in breach, including
12 a fine, imprisonment for up to two years and
13 sequestration of their assets.

14 Evidence is going to be given live over screens in
15 the hearing rooms. It is strictly prohibited to
16 photograph or record what is shown on the screens, or to
17 record what is said by a witness, or anyone else in
18 the hearing rooms.

19 You may bring your mobile telephone into the hearing
20 rooms, but you may not use it for any of those purposes.
21 You may use it silently for any other purpose. In
22 particular, you may transmit your account of what you
23 have seen and heard in a hearing room to any other
24 person, but only once at least ten minutes have elapsed
25 since the event which you are describing took place.

1 This restriction has a purpose. In the course of
2 the Inquiry, I have made orders prohibiting the public
3 disclosure of information, for example about
4 the identity of a person, for a variety of reasons.
5 These orders must be upheld. It is inevitable that,
6 whether by accident or design, information which I have
7 ordered should not be publicly disclosed will sometimes
8 be disclosed in a hearing.

9 If and when that happens, I will immediately suspend
10 the hearing and make an order prohibiting further
11 disclosure of the information outside the hearing rooms.
12 The consequence will be that no further disclosure of
13 that information may be made by mobile telephone or
14 other portable electronic device from within the hearing
15 room, or by any means outside it.

16 I am sorry if you find this message alarming. It is
17 not intended to be. Its purpose is simply to ensure
18 that everyone knows the rules which must apply if I am
19 to hear the evidence which I need to enable me to get to
20 the truth about undercover policing. You, as members of
21 the public, are entitled to hear the same public
22 evidence as I will hear, and to reach your own
23 conclusions about it. The Inquiry team will do their
24 best to ensure that you can.

25 If you have any doubt about the terms of this

1 message, or what you may or may not do, you should not
2 hesitate to ask one of them and, with my help if
3 necessary, they will provide you with the answer.

4 MS CELIA STUBBS

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Ms Stubbs, do you wish to affirm or to be
6 sworn?

7 A. To affirm, please.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: May the words of affirmation be spoken to
9 you, please.

10 (Witness affirmed)

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

12 Ms Wilkinson, I understand we're going to have
13 a break at about 11.45. If you could bear that in mind
14 when asking your questions, I'd be grateful.

15 Questions by MS WILKINSON

16 MS WILKINSON: Thank you, Sir.

17 Ms Stubbs, could you give us your full name, please?

18 A. Celia Veronica Stubbs.

19 Q. I think this morning you would like me to refer to you
20 as "Ms Stubbs"; is that right?

21 A. Thank you.

22 Q. We will be talking a lot about your partner Blair Peach.
23 Would you like me to refer to him as "Mr Peach", or with
24 his full name, or his Christian name?

25 A. Maybe "Blair Peach".

1 Q. I shall do so.

2 Ms Stubbs, you made a statement for the Inquiry,
3 dated 16 January 2021, and that is before us today. Is
4 that true and correct in its contents to the best of
5 your knowledge and belief?

6 A. Yes, that includes the supplement, doesn't it?

7 Q. It does. That's the supplemented version where you made
8 any amendments you wished and you --

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. -- appended two exhibits as well.

11 Now, that statement in its supplemented form is
12 going to be published on our website today, with the
13 exhibits that you appended. So that will be the body
14 and background of your evidence already published, so
15 that will all be taken into account.

16 So this morning I'll be highlighting some key
17 features, but we won't be reading through every part of
18 your witness statement. Is that okay?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Ms Stubbs, you are here today to help us with evidence
21 in relation to the late -- particularly the late-1970s,
22 for the purposes of this tranche today, because you and
23 your partner Blair Peach were both members at that
24 stage, in the late 70s, of the Socialist Workers Party,
25 and you both attended an anti-National Front

1 demonstration outside Southall Town Hall on
2 23 April 1979, when tragically your partner was killed.

3 Can you help us a little with your relationship.
4 How long had you been in a relationship with Blair Peach
5 by the time of these events that we'll be concentrating
6 on today?

7 A. My ex-husband and I were -- spent three years in
8 New Zealand, as he had a contract to -- to -- he was
9 a secondary school teacher; he had a contract to teach
10 there for three years. And we first met Blair when he
11 was at high school, and then at his -- when he went on
12 his first year at university. And then we returned to
13 England.

14 Blair visited us in England with his friend, went
15 back, and then came back for good. And at that time
16 I was separated, and later divorced, from my husband.

17 So that was -- that was 1970. So I first met him
18 in, yes -- sorry --

19 Q. Before 1970 you met him?

20 A. I met him about 1962, yes -- 1963; and I lived with him
21 since the end of 1971.

22 Q. And so he was your long-term partner by 1979. And had
23 he -- did you have children already by then from your
24 first marriage?

25 A. Yes, I had two daughters.

1 Q. Did he help in your care of them?

2 A. Yes, he did.

3 Q. Now, as we will hear, the tragic events of 23 April 1979
4 ignited immense strength of feeling, and you have ever
5 since been part of campaigns that have flowed from that
6 event. Most notably, you have campaigned for a public
7 inquiry to be held into Blair Peach's death, so that
8 those responsible can be held to account; you have
9 campaigned for greater accountability in policing
10 generally; and you've been involved in organisations
11 supporting miscarriages of justice cases, for example
12 through the Hackney Community Defence Association and
13 the Colin Roach Centre?

14 A. Yes, that's right.

15 Q. And we'll see that although your name appears a couple
16 of times in a couple of reports that have been submitted
17 by SDS officers before the death of your partner,
18 the vast majority of the reports that have been provided
19 to you from the undercover officers provided in your
20 pack for this tranche have been to do with
21 the Blair Peach campaign and events that took place
22 after April 1979, rather than in your personal capacity
23 in any other way.

24 Do you agree with that?

25 A. Yes, I do. Although, I have discovered, through reading

1 through statements, that Blair and I both had registry
2 files. I think mine was 1974/75, and Blair's was opened
3 in 1978. And I haven't had sight of either of these
4 registry files, so I feel that there's documents that
5 I haven't seen that might be -- might have been helpful.

6 Q. Yes.

7 A. I had great difficulty writing my first statement,
8 because I hadn't seen -- I had to write it by
9 31 January 2020, and I hadn't seen any statements at
10 all; I'd only seen quite faded copies of police
11 statements about meetings.

12 Q. Well, we have now got your statement that is informed by
13 reports that you have seen -- (overspeaking) --

14 A. But not the registry reports.

15 Q. Yes. Well, the registry file reference,
16 the "RF" reference I think you're referring to, we can
17 see in I think the very first report, where you can tell
18 that the middle number is the 74 figure, which I think
19 is what's assisted your reference to that.

20 And of course, the RF files are held by
21 Special Branch generally, and we're here today focusing
22 on the SDS, which was a fragment of that. So that's
23 what we're dealing with: the undercover reporting,
24 rather than any broader policing in respect of
25 Special Branch generally. So that's what we're going to

1 focus on for now.

2 As far as undercover policing is concerned and
3 the reports you've seen that have been generated by
4 undercover officers, you consider, I think you say in
5 your statement, this to be an abuse of police
6 surveillance powers, because you consider these
7 undercover officers to have been reporting information
8 back to the Metropolitan Police to protect the police
9 from facing justice. Is that what you say in your
10 statement?

11 A. Yes, that's right. I couldn't -- I -- I just don't
12 understand why I was spied upon and what was
13 the purpose. And I'd certainly like to know, you know,
14 how it's going to be used, how long it will be kept and
15 why they did it.

16 Q. We need now to look, I think, at the context of what was
17 going on in the 70s and the political -- your political
18 activity and involvement in any activism and that of
19 your partner, and what was generally going on as far as
20 the feelings in the country and the general elections,
21 and that sort of thing.

22 So, if we can, let's just go back, please, if we can
23 to the early 70s.

24 Is it right that you became a member of
25 the International Socialists in 1972?

1 A. Yes, that's right.

2 Q. What were the core aims of the International Socialists
3 then?

4 A. They believed very much the struggle to achieve
5 socialism was through the class struggle, and that we
6 had to build a large working-class base. Emphasis was
7 on building rank and file. We had a weekly newspaper,
8 the Socialist Worker, which we -- we sold in public
9 places every week, so we were able to talk to members of
10 the public about our aims and -- and encourage them to
11 come to the public meetings we held. We also sold
12 outside factories and places of work. I remember
13 selling outside the Metal Box factory in Hackney -- it
14 doesn't exist anymore -- when it was open.

15 We had public meetings. We had private meetings
16 open just to members only, where we discussed policy and
17 actions. We opposed racism in all its facets and we --
18 we went to demonstrations and supported other workers'
19 struggles, and also worked in our trade union at work.

20 Q. What sort of actions -- you referred to you would
21 discuss policy and actions. What sort of actions would
22 your group take that you were a member of?

23 A. Well, maybe one example is the National Front had quite
24 a large power base in the 1970s in East London, where we
25 lived. I -- I was a member of the Hackney branch of IS.

1 There were also two other branches in Hackney, one in
2 Stoke Newington and one in Clapton. I remember
3 discussing one action when the -- the National --
4 the National Front had their headquarters in South
5 Hackney, and I remember we discussed about contacting
6 the council -- it was a council building which they'd
7 rented to -- to hope to get that closed. In fact, in
8 the end, we actually were -- we were able to do that in
9 1978. And also, we discussed round Brick Lane
10 the National Front used to sell their newspaper on
11 a Sunday, and I remember going down there to -- to
12 oppose them. There were always quite a lot, and a lot
13 of police. So that's ...

14 Q. How would you oppose them? Just to help us understand
15 the context on the ground. If they were selling their
16 newspapers, in what way were you demonstrating your
17 opposition?

18 A. They chose Brick Lane because there was a very large
19 Bangladeshi community that lived and worked down there.
20 They were incredibly racist and abusive. Their
21 newspaper they used to sell was really offensive. And
22 we went down to oppose them. Yes, I mean --

23 Q. What did you do when you were there?

24 A. On one level it was -- I mean, it was usually round
25 about -- every Sunday about 11 -- between about 11 and

1 2 o'clock, and there was always a large police presence.
2 So, it was really while trying -- you know -- well, in
3 fact, you couldn't actually talk to them, but actually
4 trying to talk to people there who might be influenced
5 by them, to try and, you know, oppose them in that way.
6 And also there was quite a lot of -- obviously a lot of
7 shouting and ...

8 Q. Would you chant some slogans? Would you carry any
9 banners at that point? Or was it just --

10 A. Yes, we had banners, and we had our newspaper --

11 Q. Were there any -- (overspeaking) --

12 A. -- (inaudible).

13 Q. -- confrontations. Were there any physical
14 confrontations when you would oppose these --

15 A. No, not physical.

16 Q. I think, in terms of the campaign you referenced, or
17 the efforts to make sure that the National Front
18 headquarters in Hackney office effectively was closed
19 down, I think your partner Blair Peach was involved in
20 that effort as well with you; is that right?

21 A. Yes, very much so. The -- he was in the National Union
22 of Teachers, a very fervent trade unionist. And in
23 the last year of his life he was president of East
24 London Teachers' Association. And unions at that time,
25 our unions were -- we were -- the trades councils, we

1 were affiliated to Tower Hamlets and Hackney trades
2 councils. And so, you know, part of our work was in
3 fact speaking to them as well.

4 Q. So you were a member of the International Socialists,
5 which then, in 1977, effectively renamed -- naturally
6 renamed to the Socialist Workers Party?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Was that so that it could become a more electable party
9 and become more involved in the voting system?

10 A. Yes, I -- I honestly can't exactly remember, because
11 we -- you know, we felt that parliamentary democracy
12 that we had wasn't particularly democratic at all. But
13 it was to make it more sort of open to maybe the general
14 public, yes, who might not have been interested in -- in
15 left wing politics. That's right, yes.

16 I just wanted to correct you and say -- well,
17 I don't know if you'd said it, but in fact Blair didn't
18 join the Socialist Workers Party until, I think it was
19 about 1977 or '78.

20 Q. I hadn't given a date. I'd said "late 70s", because
21 I'd noted in your statement you'd said 1977.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. What he was a part of, and I think a member of, was one
24 of the significant campaigns that was front by
25 the International Socialists, which was

1 the Anti-Nazi League?

2 A. That's right.

3 Q. And I think he was a member of that from 1975. Were you
4 also a member of that?

5 A. Yes, I was, yes.

6 Q. And that was launched by -- well, by the -- as it was
7 the IS and then maintained through the SWP, in response,
8 as you've mentioned, to the growth of the National Front
9 in the 1970s, wasn't it?

10 A. Yes, it was. I think there was also -- from that also
11 came Rock Against Racism. And that was founded by
12 a musician after remarks that Eric Clapton made at
13 a concert venue. And also, name Dave Widgery, who
14 was -- he was a doctor in Tower Hamlets. And he was --
15 he was in the IS, then SWP, and he was very involved in
16 that side of it.

17 But it was also a mainstream organisation. Although
18 it was launched by the IS, the idea was also that it
19 would attract younger people, and maybe people who
20 wouldn't have joined the SWP but would have joined
21 the Anti-Nazi League. And I think it really took off,
22 the Anti-Nazi League and Rock Against Racism.

23 Q. And that was -- it took off as, effectively, so did this
24 growth in noise and support for the National Front. And
25 is it right that by the local elections in May 1976,

1 there had been incredibly high numbers of votes for
2 the National Front --

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. -- particularly in Leicester, and there were increasing
5 numbers of National Front protests taking place and
6 racist attacks occurring?

7 A. Yes, and I believe the National Front won a council seat
8 in the Isle of Dogs in Tower Hamlets in the local
9 elections --

10 Q. Can we have --(overspeaking) --

11 A. -- which was really worrying, yes.

12 Q. Sorry, I didn't mean to cut you off.

13 Yes, so that was the particular concern that was
14 being met or was the focus of the Anti-Nazi League in
15 particular and other groups, like you say, of
16 Rock Against Racism?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Could I ask you now -- we'll have a look at two reports
19 that are dated in 1976; in fact, both of them dated in
20 August 1996.

21 Ms Stubbs, I know you have a hard copy bundle. I'm
22 going to ask for them to come up on the screen, but
23 the Chairman also has a hard copy bundle, so I'll
24 reference the tab numbers as well as the unique
25 identifying code.

1 This is behind tab 1, and it's report {UCPI/10769}.
2 It will come up on screen, and if you need it to be any
3 bigger, then please just say so. Thank you.

4 This, we can see, is a report about, on
5 the left-hand side, the International Socialists. And
6 we see the date is 4 August 1976. We can see that this
7 was a meeting -- at paragraph 2, it was a meeting that
8 had taken place on 22 July 1976. And we can see also
9 from paragraph 2 that it was taking place at
10 Stoke Newington Town Hall.

11 Just at the bottom of paragraph 2, we can see that
12 approximately 250 people had attended. Was that sort of
13 number of people in attendance a common feature of
14 meetings of the IS in 1976, or was that unusually high?

15 A. I think it was unusually high, but also because
16 the Hackney Community Relations Council was involved in
17 the meeting, having its first meeting, and I think
18 that's what increased the numbers.

19 Q. If we can now have a look further down the screen at
20 paragraph 4, I'm going to read from about halfway along
21 paragraph 4, just to get an idea of what was taking
22 place.

23 There's a gentleman that's referenced "Kodikara" --
24 in fact, I'll read the whole paragraph out, for context:
25 "Kodikara and two other speakers

1 (unidentified) delivered impassioned speeches on
2 racialism generally, with no interference from
3 the floor. It was only when a member of
4 the National Front decided that he wished to make
5 a comment during question time that trouble occurred.
6 The man was pounced upon by a group of stewards and
7 ejected from the assembly room amid-a shower of fists
8 and invective. A timely hoax bomb call to the Town Hall
9 finally brought the meeting to a close at about
10 10.15 pm."

11 Next paragraph:

12 "It was at this point that several members of
13 the National Front appeared from the Rose and Crown
14 public house opposite the Town Hall and began taunting
15 both those leaving the meeting and members of
16 the International Socialists who were waiting outside.
17 This provoked a sharp interchange of slogan-chanting,
18 after which all members of the left wing groups present
19 decided to retreat en masse along Stoke Newington Church
20 Street towards the High Street. This group of about 60
21 persons was followed at a distance by several members of
22 the National Front until it split up into small groups
23 and dispersed quietly."

24 Ms Stubbs, does that accord with -- that can be
25 taken down off the screen now.

1 Does that accord with the -- your recollections of
2 the level of animosity and the impact on public disorder
3 that was regularly occurring at meetings in 1976
4 onwards?

5 A. There were some meetings like that. Certainly,
6 you know, not all. I can only remember one other one,
7 somewhere I think around East Ham that was similar.

8 It's interesting at the end though that it
9 said "dispersed quietly" and there was no -- I don't
10 think anyone was arrested. I mean, my memory of that
11 meeting, I think, is only because I don't -- I can't
12 really remember what was talked about, but I do remember
13 this person being ejected from the hall. And I think
14 it's because there was a crowd of National Front people
15 outside, and it's sort of very intimidating and
16 frightening. And so that's why we dispersed all
17 together.

18 Q. And do you -- your recollection, you say in your
19 statement, of the activities of the IS and
20 Socialist Workers Party was that violence was not part
21 of the agenda and was not anticipated, and do we see in
22 that example of the report the group retreating --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- instead of confronting?

25 A. Yes. Yes, I mean, you know, there had -- I do remember

1 unprovoked attacks. And, you know, of course members of
2 the left were often arrested. You know, I remember
3 that. But it wasn't -- you know, we certainly didn't go
4 to -- go out to -- to do that, you know? We didn't go
5 to provoke.

6 Q. Can we have a look at the other report from 1976 that's
7 in the bundle. This is tab 2. The UCPI number is
8 {UCPI/10779}, please.

9 The report is dated again 4 August 1976, but we can
10 see at paragraph 2 this is actually a report of
11 a meeting that had taken place a few days after the last
12 one, on Monday, 26 July 1976. And we see at the end of
13 paragraph 2 that this was attended by 23 persons, again
14 about the International Socialists.

15 Is that perhaps a more typical number of people that
16 would attend regularly?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Paragraph 3 I will read out:

19 "The meeting dealt exclusively with questions raised
20 at the National Conference of the International
21 Socialists and most of the evening was taken up with
22 boring speeches from [Privacy] and [Privacy], the two
23 delegates to the National Conference."

24 Now, this was a report being submitted by an
25 SDS officer back to his superiors. Can you just help us

1 with what the content would have been that was being
2 described there as "boring speeches"?

3 A. I'm afraid I can't remember.

4 Q. All right.

5 Paragraph 4:

6 "Little of any interest to Special Branch was
7 discussed during the session of questions from
8 the floor, except that [Privacy] accepted the role of
9 distributor within the Inner East London District
10 of 'The Worker' and also the role of 'Irish Coordinator'
11 for the District. [Privacy] suggested a programme of
12 anti-army recruiting within the District, especially
13 outside Army Careers Information Offices. This was met
14 with stern approval from [Privacy] who promised to act
15 upon this suggestion."

16 So do we see from this report that what appears to
17 be of interest, using the expression in the report, to
18 Special Branch doesn't appear to be the content of
19 the speeches but rather here, in this example,
20 the mechanisms of where the newspaper might be being
21 distributed and what events are coming up that are going
22 to take place in public places outside here, for
23 example, army offices?

24 A. Yes, this person was -- she was also a member from
25 Troops Out Movement, and we -- we often shared meetings

1 and supported each other, yes. And that's why I note
2 the policy was to -- to talk to young men and women who
3 were thinking about signing up for the armed services,
4 yes, to talk to them about it.

5 And also, I just want to go back to "boring". This
6 was probably -- I mean, we were probably talking about
7 policy and that sort of thing, and maybe, you know,
8 the undercover officer, although he was pretending to be
9 in IS, you know, he wasn't there because of his
10 political beliefs, and so might have found it rather
11 boring.

12 Q. Yes. And what we do see by that description is the --
13 as we say, the interest there from the policing
14 perspective, which is, on the face of this example, more
15 to do with what are the actions that are to be taken by
16 the group, perhaps where the scope for disorder might
17 arise?

18 A. Except he -- he didn't know that we were going to talk
19 about what Troops Out Movement might be doing.

20 Q. The SDS's proclaimed purpose in its early days was to
21 assist with the policing of public events and
22 demonstrations, as we understand is the justification
23 for the setting-up of the unit. And so intelligence
24 about who was going to be attending what events and
25 where was obviously going to be something that would be

1 of interest to this particular unit.

2 Obviously, one of those events that took place in
3 1979 was the demonstration that took place at Southall
4 Town Hall, which had the tragic consequences that it
5 did. And so on the face of it, undercover policing and
6 advance information about demonstrations like that is
7 something that the SDS would have been interested in,
8 and how to police events that they know are coming up
9 was something that the SDS ought to be interested in;
10 and indeed, what policing to deploy on the streets would
11 also have been a consideration to have been factored in.
12 And we know, and you can help us with the policing that
13 was used at that event in 1979.

14 So can we now move, if we may, to that year. And
15 can we start by looking at tab 3 in your bundle and
16 the Chairman's bundle. And on the screen, please, can
17 we have report {UCPI/21207}.

18 Ms Stubbs, I know that you've made particular
19 reference to this report in your statement. And if
20 I may, I'll use this as the bedrock to deal with
21 the topic, and then ask for your personal recollections,
22 if I may deal with it in that way.

23 This is a report dated 26 April 1979, so three days
24 later than the demonstration itself. It's a report --
25 we can't see it on the page at the moment because it's

1 zoomed in, and we don't need to -- we'll see it in
2 a second -- it's a report about
3 the Socialist Workers Party. And it is reporting back
4 from a meeting that had taken place literally the day
5 after the Southall Town Hall events. It was on
6 24 April 1979. It was at a public house in north-west
7 London, and it was taking place at 8 o'clock in
8 the evening. There are about 60 people present.

9 Paragraph 3 references "Tony Cliff" being the main
10 speaker of the evening, but he declined to speak about
11 the planned discussion, because he was much more
12 concerned to talk about the recent events.

13 Now, I understand, Ms Stubbs, you weren't present at
14 this meeting, for understandable reasons. But if I may,
15 I would like to read out from halfway down that
16 paragraph. So we might just need to scroll up on
17 the screen, please. Thank you.

18 In fact, I'll start from the third line down:

19 "He considered it far more important to discuss
20 the battles with the police during the recent
21 anti-National Front demonstrations. He concluded that
22 the difference between Leicester on 21 April 1979 and
23 Southall on 23 April 1979 was in the preparation,
24 planning and organisation done by the Anti-Nazi League
25 ... because the ANL had provided local stewards and maps

1 of the Leicester area, there had been a successful
2 attack there on the police by about 200 demonstrators,
3 high police injuries and a small number of arrests; on
4 the other hand, at Southall, due to the lack of
5 organisation and inadequate ANL stewarding, a lot of
6 police had been injured, many demonstrators had been
7 arrested and, more importantly, many demonstrators had
8 been badly injured, with one death. Cliff therefore
9 maintained that it was essential that any future
10 anti-NF action should be better organised."

11 Please scroll down:

12 "Many of the contributors from the floor then
13 recounted their adventures during the demonstrations in
14 Leicester and Southall and discussed instances
15 of 'extreme police brutality'."

16 Paragraph 5:

17 "Finally, it was announced that on Saturday,
18 28th April 1979, at Southall, there would be
19 a 'peaceful' march and vigil in memory of
20 Blair Peach ... who had died during the demonstrations
21 on 23rd April."

22 Ms Stubbs, we can see from that report that there
23 had been a demonstration in Leicester on 21 April, then
24 two days later a demonstration in Southall on 23 April
25 in 1979. Is this because the National Front had

1 arranged to hold meetings -- and in particular
2 23 April -- had arranged to hold a meeting at
3 Southall Town Hall in the runup to the general election
4 in 1979. And despite much lobbying by many groups to
5 persuade the local council not to allow the meeting to
6 take place at that town hall, the National Front meeting
7 had taken place there, and it had gone ahead. And so it
8 was felt that there ought to be a demonstration and
9 a picket outside the Southall Town Hall, so as to
10 demonstrate the strength of feeling against
11 the National Front on that occasion, 23 April. And that
12 was the event that both you and your partner attended;
13 is that right?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. With that context in mind, I know you were asked in your
16 statement, in the build-up to those -- to that event and
17 that demonstration, had you attended any meetings
18 discussing what activities should or should not take
19 place on 23 April?

20 A. Yes. Can I just say something before?

21 Q. Should we take this report down, so we can see you,
22 Ms Stubbs? Thank you.

23 A. I wasn't at the meeting. Tony Cliff founded
24 the International Socialists. He -- well, he was very
25 different to me. I actually -- I wasn't at Leicester.

1 I knew about what had happened. But it's -- I think
2 it's absolutely wrong to compare Leicester and Southall,
3 and to say because there wasn't enough ANL stewarding --
4 I mean Southall, the town in itself was a very
5 close-knit community. It had a very high percentage of
6 different -- different ethnic groupings, and -- and a
7 real industrial base. At that time, there were lots of
8 factories round Heathrow, and a lot of the residents
9 worked there. So there was a very strong community, a
10 very strong Indian Workers Associations.

11 There was over 5,000 people signed a petition to
12 stop -- the candidate standing didn't even live in
13 Southall, and the National Front hadn't been known in
14 Southall, but they were targeting towns with high Asian
15 and black populations, not just Leicester but -- but
16 Brixton, somewhere in South East London, East London.

17 They -- they marched on the day before to Ealing
18 town hall to hand the petition in. And they asked --
19 they actually asked anti-racists from all over London to
20 come and support them. But they provided their own
21 leaflets and they called a half-day strike on Monday.
22 Nearly all the factories closed down. The whole town
23 closed down.

24 And the plan was to have a peaceful demonstration
25 outside the town hall. But literally, by 1.30, the

1 police -- over 3,000 police had moved in with horses,
2 and it was a town under siege. And something which the
3 National Council for Civil Liberties later said
4 the worst thing they did was to cordon off the town.
5 Southall Town Hall was at a crossroads, and they closed
6 off all those four roads so no one could move. And when
7 the sitdown started, they started dragging just people
8 who just felt very angry about the National Front but
9 weren't -- weren't in the Anti-Nazi League, they weren't
10 in IS. There was a really strong Southall youth
11 movement, because there had been a tragic killing of
12 young youths by a young Sikh, Gurdip Singh Chaggar, when
13 in -- when he was only 17, he was killed in 1976, in
14 Southall.

15 And the Indian Workers Association was very strong
16 there. They had a -- they also had an Asian MP,
17 Piers -- I can't remember his last name, sorry.

18 So they -- they asked anti-racists to come along.
19 And we heard about it through our trade unions.
20 The Anti-Nazi League were involved. There wasn't an IS
21 branch in Southall. There was one in Acton, I believe,
22 and one in Hounslow, but not actually in Southall.

23 So they were asking us to come and protest against
24 this -- this meeting, you know, which -- that's what
25 the National Front do. They set up pre-election

1 meetings in places they don't have a stronghold. It was
2 just to absolutely cause mayhem.

3 And I think -- and it was almost -- because of what
4 happened, it was almost as if the police punished
5 the people of Southall in what happened later on with
6 the -- do you want me -- with the 700 people who were
7 arrested, and then there were 348 people actually
8 charged with offences --

9 Q. Ms Stubbs, you are very ably helping us with the details
10 of that day, and you have very clearly set out a lot of
11 that detail in your statement, so thank you. I think
12 you were about to say, "Do you want me to carry on with
13 the detail of that -- of those numbers?"

14 If I may just try and take it in a slightly
15 chronological stage.

16 We can see there that there is a report that
17 postdates the events, where the SWP were talking
18 about it, and Tony Cliff obviously giving his opinion
19 about where things had gone right or wrong.

20 What I was hoping you might be able to shine some
21 light on, if you can, from your recollections, is
22 whether discussions took place before 23 April, either
23 in SWP meetings or in any other group or branch meetings
24 that you recall, about what activities were going to
25 take place and what actions were going to take place by

- 1 those who were going to attend?
- 2 A. No, it was -- we both heard of it through our unions.
- 3 I -- I worked in Islington. I was in NALGO, and we
- 4 heard of it through NALGO and Blair heard of it in -- in
- 5 Tower Hamlets through the NUT. So I don't remember any
- 6 discussions. It was something that also the people of
- 7 Southall had asked us to come to.
- 8 Q. Were you --
- 9 A. And some of the -- some of the newspaper headings made
- 10 it sound as though outsiders came and caused trouble,
- 11 you know. Blair, after he was killed, was
- 12 called "the red" and labelled as so left wing that it
- 13 wasn't surprising he got killed.
- 14 Q. Were you attending meetings of any political groups at
- 15 that stage in 1979, before this event, do you recall?
- 16 A. Yes, I -- I would have been attending meetings of
- 17 Hackney SWP, yes. I don't have enormous memories, but
- 18 yes, I would have been. But certainly -- I certainly
- 19 don't remember either of us, you know, hearing about it
- 20 through SWP. It was really through our unions.
- 21 Q. From what you understood before you attended the event,
- 22 did you understand it was going to be widely attended,
- 23 that high numbers of people were going to be attending
- 24 this demonstration?
- 25 A. We hoped there would be, yes. We hoped there would --

1 that people would respond to what Southall had asked us.

2 Q. And you have -- and you gave us an insight in what

3 you've just said. You have an extremely grave view of

4 the policing tactics that were deployed and considered

5 appropriate for that day and the conduct of police on

6 the street on 23 April?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. You, I think -- and you deal with this at your

9 paragraph 36 of your statement -- you attended at

10 a different time from Blair Peach?

11 A. That's right.

12 Q. It was the school holidays, I think you'd said, and he

13 was a teacher, so hadn't been at school that day, and

14 you were at work, so you'd arranged to meet him there?

15 A. Yes. Arranged to meet round about outside the town

16 hall, but of course no one could get near the town hall.

17 Q. So can you now tell us about that day, if the events

18 aren't too difficult for you to recall?

19 A. Yes. No, I came with friends from -- from work. There

20 were about six or seven of us. And we arrived in

21 Southall, and the whole town was barricaded, and it was

22 very, very difficult to get anywhere. And also, I'd

23 actually never been to Southall before, and probably not

24 many people had, you know, it was out in West London and

25 we lived in East London.

1 I remember eventually trying -- getting round on
2 the east side, near Southall Park. I remember that
3 quite -- quite vividly, because we were chased by police
4 on horseback and also police on foot with truncheons,
5 chasing us and hitting people.

6 Q. Did you manage to make it round to the side of
7 the demonstration that you wanted to?

8 A. I then -- I couldn't get near the town hall, but then
9 I sort of went -- I am just trying to think -- sort of
10 north and round some back streets, and managed to get
11 into the Broadway, but then it was -- it was just
12 absolutely -- you know, there were sort of ten rows of
13 police and lots of demonstrators just surging around.
14 And I think about -- about 6 o'clock, I sort of managed
15 -- or, no, about 7 o'clock -- to get back to the station
16 and go back to Hackney.

17 Q. You'd obviously failed to meet up with
18 Blair Peach -- (overspeaking) --

19 A. Yes, (inaudible) we never met --

20 Q. And was it later that evening, about 10 o'clock at
21 night, that you received a call from your friend --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- telling --

24 A. Yes, she was at Ealing Hospital and phoned me and said
25 I should come quickly, because Blair had been hurt.

1 Q. Ms Stubbs, you know, and have now seen, that -- we'll
2 deal with the reports that flowed from the events that
3 day, but amongst the reports that you've been shown, it
4 includes the reporting from undercover police officers
5 who attended the funeral of your partner, that took
6 place on 13 June, within a couple of months of those
7 events.

8 A. Can I just say one thing which I wanted to say -- sorry.

9 I just wanted to say that was -- there was one
10 officer who -- there was only one report from one
11 undercover officer about attending the 23 April
12 demonstration. I did have his HN number and I can't
13 find it. He -- oh no, I think -- I can't remember his
14 number. I can try and find it for you in the break.
15 He -- in his report, which was very, very short, he said
16 he'd gone to Southall and was horrified at the police
17 that he'd seen, the violence against the police, and he
18 left early before the incident with Blair.

19 It -- it was incredible. It was once again, I felt
20 that he was distancing himself immediately from
21 the person who'd been killed. And it -- it reminded --
22 it just reminded me of -- no, that sounds ... It later
23 reminded me -- you haven't come to that, but it later
24 reminded me about the -- the six police officers who
25 were suspected one of whom killing Blair, that they in

1 their statements -- I mean, in the Cass Report, Cass
2 says that they -- they lied to him. They -- they tried
3 to say that the carrier which they were in, U11, stopped
4 at the bottom of Broadway and Beechcroft; they didn't
5 want to say it had stopped at the top of Beechcroft
6 and the corner of Orchard, which is where Blair received
7 the blow on the head that killed him. And two of them
8 changed their statements. And they also said there were
9 other police present, which Cass had ruled out.

10 Q. Ms Stubbs, can I help you with your reference? I think,
11 did you take that reference from the undercover policing
12 from one of the sort of cumulative gists --

13 A. It might have been. Yes, I'm just thinking. Yes, it
14 was the closed officers' gists, the undercover
15 -- (overspeaking) --

16 Q. An officer whose cover name hasn't been able to
17 -- (overspeaking) --

18 A. Yes, and that was even more horrifying to me, because,
19 you know, with most of the undercover officers, at least
20 we know their cover name. This man, we don't know his
21 cover name, his real name, and not even his HN number.
22 Nothing.

23 Q. And you feel that there are parallels in the way that
24 the experience of that officer was reported on 28 April
25 and parallels with the way that the SPG officers,

1 the Special Patrol Group officers, gave their evidence
2 to the various investigations that took place which,
3 you're right, we will come to.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Thank you.

6 You have seen, then -- as far as actual undercover
7 reporting that you have seen, you know and are aware
8 that there were undercover police officers present at
9 your partner's funeral on 13 June, and that they
10 provided a list of the vast numbers of names of people
11 that attended on that occasion. And I think you've also
12 seen in the report three reports where photographs have
13 been taken of people that had been attending at
14 the funeral. And I think you've commented in your
15 statement you find it very distressing, and you found it
16 distressing when you learnt of the fact that
17 undercover police officers had been present at his
18 funeral and photographs taken; is that right?

19 A. Yes, it was HN106. And he put in his -- he put in his
20 statement that he attended the funeral because -- in
21 case there would be a risk of public disorder. I mean,
22 I thought what an absolutely ludicrous statement.
23 Blair Peach's mother, his aunt, his oldest brother and
24 his wife and a cousin had all come from New Zealand for
25 the funeral. There were 10,000 people at the funeral.

1 They all came to pay their respects.

2 There was -- he also said that it was to protect his
3 undercover identity, which I think is -- is really
4 sickening, if he has to do that.

5 And also, the list of attendees, I think I counted
6 them. I think there were about -- he listed 71 people.
7 I mean, there were 10,000 people.

8 Yes, and I'm afraid the three photographs I couldn't
9 identify. I didn't know who they were.

10 Q. Thank you.

11 In terms then of events that flowed after the death
12 of your partner, we can see, just looking at a few
13 examples of the reporting that is in 1979, after
14 the April date, we can see the real mobilising of
15 the feeling, the real sense of grievance against
16 the police that this triggered in people, as well as
17 support for you and your loss.

18 May I just now go through a few examples of
19 the reports from 1979 in the aftermath of these events.

20 Please can we first of all turn to tab 4, which is
21 report UCPI/2128, please.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: 21218, I think.

23 MS WILKINSON: Sorry, did I say that incorrectly? 21218.

24 I apologise to the technicians.

25 Thank you, Sir. {UCPI/21218}.

1 Thank you.

2 Again, this was not a meeting, Ms Stubbs, where you
3 were present, but this is indicative of the mobilisation
4 of the people in support of what you'd gone through and
5 outrage at the events.

6 This is a report dated 3 May 1979, about a meeting
7 that had taken place on Monday, 30 April 1979. I'm
8 going to read from paragraph 3:

9 "The meeting was chaired by [Privacy], and began
10 with a summary of the incidents during the past week at
11 Southall given by [Privacy], a teacher and member of
12 Acton SWP. He stated that a temporary headquarters had
13 been set up in Southall from which [Privacy] and
14 [Privacy] would be carrying out an investigation into
15 the death of Blair Peach."

16 And if we go down to paragraph 7, please, halfway
17 down -- right at the bottom of the page. I'll read from
18 paragraph 7:

19 "Two collection funds have been set up as a result
20 of Blair Peach's death in Southall. One fund is for
21 Peach's dependents and the other to pay the fines of
22 those arrested during the Anti-National Front
23 demonstration on 23.4.79."

24 We can take that report down.

25 Does that accord with your recollection, Ms Stubbs,

1 of what was taking place on the ground: people
2 commissioning their own investigation into what had
3 happened at Southall Town Hall, and so that temporary
4 headquarters, almost like a military operation in
5 itself, had been set up; and then, in support of you and
6 others, there was a fund collection going on? Is that
7 just an example of the strength of feeling that was
8 taking place?

9 A. Yes, it was. I -- I didn't really know about
10 the setting up the headquarters. Certainly when we come
11 on to the Friends of Blair Peach, you know, I was more
12 involved with them.

13 Yes, the funds, yes, it was absolutely amazing,
14 because there's no legal aid for inquests and our
15 inquest cost £12,000, and they raised 20,000 in
16 the first year for the Friends. So that was amazing.

17 Q. Thank you.

18 We'll see reference to the setting-up very shortly
19 of this group.

20 Can I just look at the next report, tab 5
21 {UCPI/21270}.

22 In the left-hand column, if we need to see it -- we
23 can check it, but it's clear from the context I'm about
24 to read that this was a meeting of the Indian Workers
25 Association in Southall, and this was the very vibrant

1 association that you referred to earlier; is that right,
2 Ms Stubbs?

3 A. Yes, it is.

4 Q. This says that:

5 "The undermentioned persons were among those who
6 took part in the demonstration in Southall on 28.4.79 --
7 organised by the Indian Workers Association and
8 Anti-Nazi League -- in protest at police actions during
9 the anti-National Front demonstration in Southall on
10 23.4.79 and, in particular, at the death of
11 Blair Peach."

12 So another example of what was going on on
13 the ground and the strength of feeling and the actions
14 that were being organised in the immediate aftermath of
15 this event; is that right?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Can we have a look now at the next report, tab 6
18 {UCPI/21297}, please.

19 We can see on the left-hand side of that page of
20 this report, by this time, which is 30 May 1979,
21 the Friends of Blair Peach Committee had been
22 established. So this is what you were referring to,
23 I think, Ms Stubbs, in terms of the action group being
24 set up very quickly after the event; is that right?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. "Submitted herewith is a leaflet, which has been
2 received from a reliable source. The leaflet was issued
3 by the Friends of Blair Peach Committee and seeks to
4 highlight the circumstances which it maintains led to
5 the death of Blair Peach at Southall on 23 April 1979,
6 during an anti-National Front demonstration."

7 Number 2:

8 "It contains a list of activities necessary to widen
9 the campaign, especially within the trade union
10 movement, and is mainly the work of [Privacy], who was
11 with Peach at the time he received the injuries which it
12 is alleged caused his death."

13 The officer reporting this information back on this
14 report to the SDS, at paragraph 3, goes on to add:

15 "It is, perhaps, of interest to note that [Privacy],
16 a dedicated member of the Socialist Workers Party and
17 a close personal friend of Peach, is highly critical of
18 the way the SWP Central Committee are handling the whole
19 issue and especially of the Party's coverage in
20 the 'Socialist Worker' newspaper."

21 And:

22 "She has let it be known that she intends to rectify
23 this situation by publicising the aims and activities of
24 the Friends of Blair Peach Committee at every available
25 opportunity."

1 That line concludes.

2 If we may go to the next page {UCPI/21297/2}, we can
3 see the leaflet. And I just wanted to confirm
4 the objectives of the committee with you, halfway down
5 the page, Ms Stubbs, if we can. If we scroll to
6 the latter part -- yes.

7 At the second hole punch we can see, albeit very
8 faint type, "We call on ..."

9 Can we see those words, Ms Stubbs? Are you able to
10 see it and make it out a little?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Thank you very much:

13 "We call on our members to.

14 "a. Organise collections in their workplaces for
15 the Blair Peach Memorial Fund.

16 "b. Circulate the petition calling for a full
17 public inquiry.

18 "c. Secure the maximum attendance at the funeral
19 ceremony.

20 "Further we call on the National Executive of our
21 union to:

22 "a. Make a substantial donation to the Blair Peach
23 memorial fund.

24 "b. Affiliate to the Anti-Nazi League.

25 "c. Give full support to the calls to disband

1 the Special Patrol Group and to bring to justice those
2 responsible for Blair Peach's death."

3 Is that -- were those the core aims, as you
4 understood them to be, behind this group that had been
5 set up as a result of the events on 23 April, Ms Stubbs?

6 A. Yes. I wasn't involved with the Friends immediately
7 afterwards, but yes, I knew those were the core things.

8 Although, are you going to -- I mean, you know,
9 the things that we -- are we going to going on to
10 the things that they were asking us to do, or asking
11 people to do? It was things like to contact your MP, to
12 write to the newspaper for a letter to -- to speak to
13 your local radio station, and also to have meetings
14 about --

15 Q. I'm very happy to continue to read. This leaflet is
16 itself evidence, and if you'd like to highlight a little
17 bit more of this particular document, I'm very happy to
18 do so, Ms Stubbs.

19 We can see, just as you were saying, on that screen,
20 just after the line that I'd finished reading, it was
21 inviting -- a number of asterisk points, if you can see,
22 right there, as you were saying:

23 "Phone your local radio station. Demand answers to
24 the questions above.

25 "Write to your local papers.

1 "Arrange a street meeting.

2 "Get copies of the petition and the collection sheet
3 and distribute them widely ..."

4 I can't work out the next word, but there's
5 a reference to the "writing to" and -- (overspeaking) --
6 address through the fund?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. "Get copies of the fact sheet sponsored by East London
9 Teachers' Association ..."

10 And:

11 "[something] then to further your arguments
12 from ..."

13 And then there's an address:

14 "Write to your MP demanding his/her support for
15 a public inquiry."

16 I'm very happy to carry on to the next page to
17 finish that list of actions, if we can do that
18 {UCPI/21297/3}.

19 On the screen it's just the next page of four more
20 asterisk points:

21 "Arrange pickets of suitable places -- in London
22 there have already been pickets of Scotland Yard,
23 the Home Office and the Coroners Court and elsewhere in
24 the country of local police stations.

25 "Get a speaker from the Anti-Nazi League or Friends

1 of Blair Peach by contacting ..."

2 And the information is given:

3 "Duplicate this sheet and spread the campaign.

4 "Get a stall at any trade union functions or
5 community functions in your area to get the petition
6 signed and collect money etc."

7 So it's a real mobilisation of the feeling of
8 grievance that we are seeing in these reports that are
9 being sent by SDS officers back to Special Branch; is
10 that right, Ms Stubbs?

11 A. Yes --

12 Q. We can see -- (overspeaking) --

13 A. And also, you know, absolutely sort of before social
14 media and smartphones, just the sort of things you did
15 in -- in the 70s, but nothing violent. There's no
16 suggestion of violence.

17 Q. Can I deal with two more reports that are all dated in
18 1979, just to help us understand how the activities were
19 taking place.

20 Tab 10, for your bundle, Sir, and I think possibly
21 yours, Ms Stubbs; but the reference is {UCPI/21044}.

22 This is a report on the screen that we can see,
23 dated 16 July 1979, about a meeting that had taken place
24 on 5 July. And it's a Socialist Workers Party meeting,
25 and this happens to be the Leytonstone -- sorry,

1 Waltham Forest district of the Socialist Workers Party
2 that was holding this meeting.

3 The meeting was entitled, as we can see in
4 paragraph 2 of this report, as follows:

5 "Police are the murderers -- disband
6 the Special Patrol Group."

7 And:

8 "Some twenty-five persons attended."

9 At paragraph 4, if we can scroll down this report,
10 please -- I'll read from paragraph 4:

11 "[Privacy], the only one of the invited speakers to
12 attend, then delivered his talk. He maintained that
13 the role of the Police in any capitalist society was to
14 protect the system at all costs and Police and Armed
15 Forces, although both of working class origin, must
16 therefore be considered to be the repressive arm of
17 the State. In his view, the dissolution of the SPG was
18 just a small step on the road to a socialist revolution
19 but, even so, its disbandment had to be aimed for in
20 the light of the present public attitude towards
21 the Police following the death of Blair Peach.

22 The remainder of [the] speech then adopted the usual
23 line of 'a just society will only be achieved through
24 socialism and this is what we must all work for'."

25 So we're about to come on to the SPG, but this --

1 was this -- again, is this an indication of the strength
2 of feeling and an indication of the national campaign
3 that had been triggered to disband the Special Patrol
4 Group after the events of 23 April?

5 A. Yes. Yes, it was.

6 Q. I just wanted to check if there was a reference in this
7 report, but I think it's in the next report that we see
8 a picket that had been arranged for the eve of
9 the inquest. And so let's just go to that, please.

10 Tab 11, and that's report {UCPI/13468}, please. Ah,
11 now, I have a different reference here, perhaps.

12 Please may I ask in fact for a different report to
13 come up; and I apologise for giving the wrong reference.
14 And I don't quite know how I've achieved that in my
15 tabbing. I do apologise.

16 Can I ask for this report to come up on screen,
17 {UCPI/13435}.

18 I have that behind my tab 11, Sir. And you may as
19 well, Ms Stubbs. But it's a report dated
20 1 October 1979.

21 If we can -- it's a report about the Socialist
22 Workers Party again. And if we can just scroll to
23 paragraph 5, please:

24 "On 10 October ..."

25 Reading from paragraph 5:

1 "On 10 October 79, the eve of the Blair Peach
2 inquest, a picket will be held outside Harlesden Police
3 Station from 7.30 pm until 9.30 pm and Kilburn Police
4 Station from 10 pm until 12 midnight. The pickets will
5 coincide with door-to-door leafletting in the area to
6 complain about the proposed introduction of
7 a Special Patrol Group contingent into the Brent area."

8 So this was an example -- and it may well be
9 the report, the number of which I gave just a minute
10 ago, was another example of the fact that many pickets
11 had been arranged for the eve of the inquest that was
12 set up to start at the Coroners Court; is that right?

13 A. Yes, it was -- it was the first inquest, yes. And there
14 were over a hundred police stations -- I think you said
15 50? -- there were over a hundred police stations
16 picketed outside. It was just a reminder and -- just
17 people were still so angry about it, to be able to
18 express themselves.

19 Q. So this was six months on. And if I may just pause
20 there and see if I have the chronology right about
21 the inquests and the various reports.

22 Blair Peach had died on 23 April 1979. Do
23 I understand that there was -- the inquest was
24 technically opened in the sort of pro forma way that it
25 has to be on 26 April 1979?

1 A. Yes, that's when they just open and close, don't they?

2 Just --

3 Q. Yes.

4 A. Yes. No, why I called it "the first inquest" -- oh, you
5 must know, because the coroner refused to sit with
6 a jury or to allow the Cass Report, that's why we had to
7 go for a judicial review -- (overspeaking) -- how it was
8 stopped.

9 Q. If I may just try and elicit a chronology, and please
10 correct me if I do have this wrong and add the extra
11 detail, and then it may be a convenient moment to go for
12 a break if we just get this chronology right, if I can.

13 So the technical opening happened on 26 April 1979.
14 Do we understand that there was then an internal
15 investigation by Commander John Cass that had been
16 triggered as a result of the Complaint Investigation
17 Bureau that reported -- the first of his reports was
18 dated 12 July 1979?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And then was it the case that the inquest formally
21 opened in October 1979, as we saw reference there, on
22 presumably then the 11 October, if the 10th was the eve?
23 And did that inquest, chaired by John Burton,
24 the Coroner, was that -- did that inquest run from
25 October 1979 to May 1980, when it eventually --

1 A. No, it was stopped the first day. But Cass submitted
2 a second report in September. And the DPP, in
3 September, who was -- I can't remember his name; it's
4 gone out of my head. The DPP declared that there was no
5 case to answer and no policemen would be charged. And
6 this, having read the Cass Report, which we weren't
7 allowed, where it actually said that a policemen had
8 killed Blair. We'll go into that a bit more. But no,
9 it had to be adjourned because we applied to go to
10 the High Court.

11 Q. So it began in October 1979. There was then a pause.
12 And as you say, there was -- there were two aspects of
13 the Cass Report that had taken place before the start of
14 that inquest?

15 A. That's right.

16 Q. The first report is 12 July '79, and then there was
17 the 14 September '79 additional update of
18 the Cass Report?

19 A. Of the report, yes.

20 Q. Then the inquest opened in October '79?

21 A. Yeah, on the 11th, correct.

22 Q. On the 11th.

23 It was then paused, from what you tell us. And then
24 ultimately, did it start again in April 1980 and
25 conclude in May 1980?

1 A. Yes, I think it was 29 or 28 April, it started.

2 Q. And concluded in May --

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. -- some weeks later -- May 1980. And there was

5 a verdict recorded, where a jury were involved, of death

6 by misadventure?

7 A. Are we going to come on to that? Yes.

8 Q. Well, yes. But as I understand, and what I wanted to

9 make clear -- I'm just trying to get the dates so that

10 we can understand the chronology. You have in your

11 statement, in very clear terms, set out, using extracts

12 from the Cass Report, the basis of why you are severely

13 critical of the coroner's approach to that inquest, his

14 assessment of the evidence and the verdict reached,

15 aren't you?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And it wasn't until 27 April 2010 that you received

18 disclosure of that Cass Report?

19 A. That's right.

20 Q. Which sets out a view of the evidence Commander John --

21 he was Commander John Cass, wasn't he?

22 A. Yes -- (overspeaking) --

23 Q. -- police force -- Commander John Cass' view of

24 the evidence regarding the SPG officers was, in your

25 view, very much at odds with the Coroner's view --

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. -- that was expressed during the course of the 1980
3 concluded inquest.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. If I may, that might be a convenient moment for a break,
6 and then we're going to look at one of the exhibits that
7 you have provided for us, Ms Stubbs.

8 A. Can I just mention something, as you're going in
9 chronological order, that I forgot -- and why maybe
10 there was such high feeling about the Special
11 Patrol Group?

12 At the beginning of June, at Barnes station in
13 Special Patrol Group lockers, a lot of unauthorised
14 weapons were found. And also one of them -- one of
15 their homes, that was PC Bint, where they found Nazi
16 regalia, and also unauthorised weapons.

17 Q. Was that part of the investigation that Commander Cass
18 was leading?

19 A. Yes, and that was leaked to us, yes. And my solicitor
20 went and saw the weapons.

21 Q. So that was all part of the investigation, and he
22 gathered evidence and heard from the officers, or
23 heard -- or didn't, depending on who chose to give him
24 evidence --

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. -- that was all part of his investigation --

2 A. Yes, it was.

3 Q. -- by the --

4 A. Yes. And, I mean, one of the weapons was a -- was

5 a long cosh with a metal -- piece of metal at one end.

6 Q. I think you've given us a lot of -- you've helped us

7 with --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- that detail in your statement.

10 A. Yes. But that was the -- that was the -- I think that

11 added to the anger that people felt about

12 the Special Patrol Group.

13 Q. When you say that was leaked, did people know about that

14 discovery then, at the time in 1980?

15 A. Yes, it -- it was June '79 that it was leaked -- that it

16 happened, and my solicitor went to view the weapons. It

17 was, yes, just before Cass -- the first part of his

18 report was finished.

19 Q. So that was widely known, what had been discovered in

20 that --

21 A. Yes, absolutely, yes. It was in the national newspapers

22 and -- yeah.

23 MS WILKINSON: Thank you, Ms Stubbs.

24 If that's a convenient moment, Sir, for the break?

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Certainly. We'll have a break. But may

1 I ask by what time approximately, assuming we restart
2 very shortly after 12, you anticipate finishing?

3 MS WILKINSON: Well, Sir, I have -- probably within about
4 20 minutes or so, I would say.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.

6 Then we'll break for our usual quarter of an hour to
7 let the shorthand writers have a break.

8 MS WILKINSON: Thank you, Sir.

9 MR FERNANDES: Good morning, everyone. We will now take
10 a break. May I remind those in the virtual hearing room
11 to join their break-out rooms, please.

12 The time is now 11.50 am, so we shall reconvene at
13 12.05 pm. Thank you.

14 (11.49 am)

15 (A short break)

16 (12.05 pm)

17 MR FERNANDES: Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome back.

18 I will now hand over to the Chairman to continue
19 proceedings.

20 Chairman.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

22 Ms Wilkinson.

23 MS WILKINSON: Thank you, Sir.

24 Ms Stubbs, we had just concluded the chronology of
25 the investigation and inquest dates. And as I said,

1 that was in the context of a national campaign that had
2 really captured quite a lot of attention in the year
3 1979 into 1980, all about disbanding
4 the Special Patrol Group. That nationwide campaign we
5 get a flavour of, and the basis for it we get a flavour
6 of, in one of the exhibits that you've provided for
7 the Inquiry's assistance. Which we can pull up on
8 screen and is a -- I think a book, or a large -- I think
9 an article or book or magazine type document, titled
10 "The Blair Peach Case: Licence to Kill", which was
11 written by David Ransom, who was part of the Friends of
12 Blair Peach Committee; is that right?

13 A. Yes, and he was a teacher at the same school as Blair.

14 Yes, it's a booklet.

15 Q. It's a booklet. Thank you, that's the word I was
16 looking for.

17 We have this on our screens at {UCPI/34077}. And if
18 we can turn to page 12 of that, please, for the
19 technician's assistance, {UCPI/34097/12}.

20 If we look halfway down the page, we can see that
21 this part of the booklet is focusing on
22 the Special Patrol Group. And if we start at
23 the paragraph that begins, "Most of the attention ..."

24 I'll read these two paragraphs here:

25 "Most of the attention since has focused on the SPG,

1 which was involved in all the worst violence in
2 Southall. The overall strategy of the police has been
3 somewhat obscured. However, it is clear that small as
4 their numbers were the SPG played a vital role in this
5 overall strategy, and without them such a strategy would
6 probably never have been contemplated."

7 Just pausing there, Ms Stubbs. This is referring to
8 the general policing that was deployed on 23 April,
9 isn't it?

10 A. Yes, is that Whitelaw again, because I'd be horrified at
11 that first paragraph. I'd forgotten about that.

12 Q. Yes.

13 A. The little paragraph at the top, where he said that more
14 or less he deserved to be killed, didn't he?

15 Q. Yes.

16 This is a booklet written, as we identified, from
17 a member of the Friends of Blair Peach Committee.

18 A. Yes, David Ransom.

19 Q. He is there setting out what he is now referring to here
20 in this paragraph about -- which is I think the police
21 strategy. And of course, we must try and remember that
22 the Chairman and the Inquiry here is focused on
23 the undercover policing --

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. -- aspect of policing --

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. -- and obviously it's right to say that Commander Cass,
3 and indeed the Coroner, were focused on different
4 things. But what this helps us with a little bit is
5 the role that the SPG played as part of the overall
6 policing, which would have included undercover policing
7 on the day, and what the response was decided to be by
8 the police on 23 April. And that's what this booklet is
9 focusing on, from his perspective.
- 10 A. But -- but there was one undercover policeman there, if
11 we are to believe that we've got all the statements, and
12 he was there for a couple of hours.
- 13 Q. Yes, thank you. And that gives me an opportunity to
14 remind ourselves that that -- you're referring to
15 the closed ^^ officer gist --
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. -- if you remember.
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. That's a collection of all the closed officers' witness
20 statements for Tranche 1 Phase 2, and that was collated
21 down into a document that's been published and it's from
22 that that you get the information about the officer that
23 was present; is that right?
- 24 A. Yes, but it's -- it's in the singular, not the plural.
- 25 Q. Yes.

- 1 A. You're saying there's more. There's a whole bunch of
2 officers saying that.
- 3 Q. No, we're saying that there is -- that gist --
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. -- was created, as I understand it, by summarising
6 the important aspects that could be published from
7 a number of different officers' witness statements, and
8 one of those officers whose identity it's right to say
9 you do not know and you do not know their cover name,
10 but one of those officers was able to contribute in
11 the way that they did in their statement and that's been
12 put into open in the gist which confirms that he was
13 present -- he or she was present at -- on 23 April, as
14 you said, for a period and then, as you've referred to,
15 left.
- 16 A. But are you actually telling me there were more
17 undercover officers at Southall?
- 18 Q. I am referring to the fact that this information came
19 from a gist of a collation --
- 20 A. Yes, which is a bunch of them at Southall.
- 21 Q. I have no doubt that if there was evidence that needed
22 to be gisted to the plural, it would have been gisted in
23 that way, Ms Stubbs.
- 24 A. Right, okay, so just the one. Yes, that's why there
25 wasn't really -- well, maybe we'll come on to that,

1 because it's something -- I don't know if it's
2 appropriate now to speak about it.

3 Q. Would it be now convenient I think to -- can we focus on
4 the document that you've exhibited for our assistance?

5 A. Yes. David's book, yes.

6 Q. If that's all right for the time being.

7 A. Okay ^.

8 Q. So what we were -- and it's my fault because
9 I distracted to talk about the fact that this was part
10 of an overall policing strategy and this particular
11 paragraph is focusing on the SPG as part of that overall
12 policing strategy.

13 The second paragraph that I will read from, which is
14 the penultimate on this page, is what David Ransom
15 refers to him having found in The Observer on 29th April
16 published, he says here:

17 "... Scotland Yard's own account of the SPG. It was
18 the only specialist unit in the Metropolitan Police
19 Force. Vacancies were generally oversubscribed, so that
20 something like 50% of applicants failed on vetting.
21 There was a 25% annual turnover and a 'full tour' lasted
22 three years. A 'Scotland Yard spokesman' emphasised
23 that the SPG had no room in its ranks for the '
24 headstrong type or those who are liable to over-react to
25 any difficult situation'."

1 And if we can move --

2 A. Something's wrong there, isn't it, because they are
3 supposed to only be there three years, but the --
4 the driver of carrier U11 had been there something like
5 five or six years.

6 Q. Ms Stubbs, let me help you, because I'm about to move to
7 that next part in this booklet to highlight these
8 particular features.

9 If we can move to page 14 of this unique reference,
10 please {UCPI/34077/14}.

11 In the paragraph that begins, "Most seriously of
12 all ..." which is just at the bottom of this page.

13 Thank you:

14 "Most seriously of all, however, the inquest
15 revealed that the purportedly rigorous controls over
16 the SPG in reality had never existed at all. At least
17 seven of the SPG officers who gave evidence to
18 the inquest had been there for more than four years; one
19 for eight years and two virtually since the SPG was
20 founded in 1965 -- one of these two was PC' Chalkie'
21 White, the 'magpie' of Unit 1 and driver of Uniform 1/1
22 in Southall on 23rd April 1979. He had been a member of
23 one of the four SPG units dispatched to Anguilla in
24 1969."

25 A. I certainly got the number wrong, didn't I. He'd been

1 there for 14 years ^.

2 Q. If I then move to the last aspect of this booklet which
3 I'd like to highlight which is on the next page
4 {UCPI/34077/15}, and it will be the last paragraph
5 beginning "The Sunday Times".

6 Again, this is David Ransom's account of what he'd
7 read, he tells -- he publishes in this booklet, in
8 The Sunday Times of 1 June 1980. He refers here to an
9 interview that had been published. He says:

10 ":

11 " 'The Sunday Times' on 1st June 1980 published an
12 interview with Inspector Alan Murray, following his
13 resignation from the police. Presumably Murray intended
14 this interview as a vindication of himself and of
15 the SPG. It is all the more disquieting for that. He
16 recounts how on the afternoon of 23rd April 1979 he had
17 addressed unit 1 about how the ' loony left' were going
18 to be present in Southall and how it promised to be
19 a 'tasty one'. He described the ' elan' ..."

20 Which I understand to mean enthusiasm:

21 "... that had been built up in his unit, and how
22 they had the habit of arriving on duty to the tune
23 of 'The Dam Busters'. The Unit was proud for known
24 as 'The Cowboys'.' and when I was out with I had unit
25 I was my own boss to a large extent', said

1 Murray. 'Before acting I didn't have ..."

2 Can we move to the next page. Thank you:

3 "... to ring up and say, 'Guvn or, do you think this
4 is right?' I followed my own experience to do what was
5 expected'."

6 For my own part, Ms Stubbs, I don't need to read any
7 more, because that gives a flavour of the perceived
8 behaviour and indeed the account, on the face of it,
9 given publicly by a former member of the SPG who was
10 present on 23 April; is that right, Ms Stubbs?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Ultimately, as we know from the Cass Report that was
13 disclosed to you in 2010 and as we have summarised in
14 the Inquiry's opening, it's right to say the conclusion
15 there was that the lethal blow, referring to the death
16 of area partner, was almost certainly struck by a member
17 of the MPS's SPG; is that right?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Ms Stubbs, I'd like now to move on -- if we can take
20 that down, please -- to anniversary events that took
21 place after the events on 23 April.

22 Now, you explain in your statement that you have
23 always found these to be difficult events, no doubt
24 quite understandably. But do you also agree that they
25 demonstrate the strength of feeling and continued place

1 in the public's mind that the events of 23 April have
2 held?

3 A. Yes, absolutely. Are you talking about -- you're
4 jumping way ahead to 1998, are you?

5 Q. No, I'm talking about anniversary events which took
6 place as quickly as the following year in 1980 and
7 subsequently in 1981 --

8 A. When you said that I find it particularly hard, that was
9 something I said in 1998.

10 Q. Yes.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Forgive me, you're right.

13 A. Sorry, yes. In May 1989, yeah ^.

14 Q. No doubt it becomes increasingly difficult, as it must
15 have been at the time as well.

16 So, if we were to look now at tab 27 in your bundle
17 and that of the chairman, and we will see this report on
18 our screen at {UCPI/20994}.

19 A. I wasn't here, was I? No.

20 Q. No, I don't think you were.

21 A. No, no. Yes.

22 Q. What I'm trying to identify, or rather highlight here is
23 that --

24 A. Sorry, yeah, yeah.

25 Q. -- it's not the case -- it was the case, wasn't it,

1 Ms Stubbs, that these events have triggered -- it had
2 not gone away and public's recollection of these events
3 has not gone away and strength of feeling about what
4 happened that day has not gone away?

5 A. No. Yes, sorry. ^.

6 Q. And these are anniversary events that took place and
7 that we certainly see in 1980 and '81
8 undercover police officers felt it important to report
9 back to Special Branch?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And if we therefore look at this report, which is dated
12 18 April 1980, we can see at paragraph 38(i), this being
13 a meeting to do with the Socialist Workers Party, that
14 on 23 April 1980:

15 "... from 6 pm until 8 pm outside Harlesden Police
16 Station ..."

17 It was being announced that there was to be:

18 "... a mass picket will be held to commemorate
19 the death of Blair Peach, organised by the north-west
20 London SWP. (This will be attended by about forty
21 persons). A similar picket will be held outside Kilburn
22 Police Station (this will be attended by about thirty
23 persons) from 5 pm until 7 pm on the same day, organised
24 by Kilburn Anti-Nazi League."?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. "Also a picket on the same evening to tack place outs
2 Barnet Police Station organised by Finchley SWP (this
3 will be attended by about twenty persons."

4 And we can see that those police stations were not
5 alone f we just have a look at another report at this
6 time behind tab 28. This is report {UCPI/13891}, where
7 we can see -- if we just see the list of police station
8 --

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. -- in their entirety. This report shows us that it was
11 known:

12 "... that the following police stations in the MP
13 D will be picketed by members of the SWP, who are
14 protesting about the death of 'Blair Peach' and calling
15 for the disbandment of the Special Patrol Group."?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And this was 16 police stations, if we just look down
18 the list that were going to have --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- for a number of hours a picket that evening. And
21 this was a number of years after the events and this was
22 the level of activity and strength of feeling that was
23 being shown; is that right?

24 A. Yes, it is.

25 Q. Can we see a year on after that, for the second

1 anniversary, if we move to tab 37, report number
2 {UCPI/16434}. Again, just an example of a different
3 campaign. This is the Right to Work Campaign, and this
4 is just an indication of the fact that here, is there
5 a plan in February, for an event that was going to take
6 place a couple of months later.

7 So we see this report back from the SDS to
8 Special Branch has attached a leaflet outlining
9 the future events planned by the South East London Right
10 to Work Campaign including a picket of Eltham Police
11 Station on Thursday 23rd April 1981, the second
12 anniversary of the death of Blair Peach.".

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Tab 47, please, in your bundle. Yes, I do. This is, on
15 the screen {MPS/1219}. And here we are going into --
16 we're obviously jumping on a number of years, Ms Stubbs,
17 because we're looking at the 20th anniversary. So this
18 is a report, as we can see, dated in 1998, and I just
19 wanted to -- what I'm here trying to highlight is
20 the fact that this -- the events that took place in 1979
21 are -- have remained a feature in people's minds that
22 has mobilised a continuing strong feeling about
23 the events that day and the tragic situation that befell
24 your partner.

25 And here what we're looking at -- and it's unusual,

1 Ms Stubbs, this type of report demonstrates a very ...
2 a large shift in the style of the reporting because we
3 see here a title and an intelligence subject. On
4 the page we see "touchy subject", which is itself
5 a codename of the reporting officer, which I think
6 information has reached you, Ms Stubbs, that that's what
7 that means, it doesn't mean that the content that's
8 being discussed is itself a "touchy subject".

9 A. This was at a meeting at the Colin Roach Centre and
10 undercover officer was "Mark Cassidy" who had
11 infiltrated our group and was there for five years and
12 had a relationship with a woman there which caused her
13 terrible distress when she found out who he was.

14 Q. That's correct.

15 ^rach did

16 A. And I think the last -- there's about six different
17 files on -- where he spied on us in great detail. He
18 seems to be not particularly truthful. It wasn't that
19 I -- I always found it quite -- quite difficult to -- at
20 anniversaries and to keep on, you know, having
21 anniversaries, although I was -- still felt really
22 honoured that so many people still remembered Blair and
23 wanted to remember him.

24 But also the last paragraph there. Suddenly it was
25 said "potential for disorder". I mean, we'd had -- we'd

1 had remembrance demonstrations after five years, after
2 ten years, and this was 20 years. There'd never been
3 any -- any disorder. I don't know why he put that.
4 I think it's pretty unpleasant. Suddenly he's putting
5 something which no one has -- has -- no one's made that
6 statement about our -- what we did, the Friends of
7 Blair Peach, and continuing on.

8 Q. Ms Stubbs, might I just read the content into the record
9 so that those that are following on --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- that aren't able to look at the screen can follow
12 the --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- text in the transcript.

15 This is a report dated 28 July 1998 and it says
16 that:

17 "April 1999 represents the 20th anniversary of
18 the death of Blair Peach in Southall during an anti-Nazi
19 demonstration. To help commemorate this event, local
20 trade unions are organising a large rally and
21 demonstration, which will be presented with a strong
22 anti-racist/anti-police flavour.

23 "The temporary organising committee have approached
24 Celia Stubbs, Peach's ex-girlfriend to help promote
25 the event that she has reluctantly agreed to do."

1 And there's a comment from the source, who we know
2 to be "Touchy Subject", and as you've identified, that's
3 the code name for the officer you've referred to:

4 "The event will inevitably attract a large left wing
5 presence with particular accent on anti-police type
6 groups and the potential for disorder will be
7 significant."

8 And you've explained your views about this report
9 and your reference there to reluctance on your part and
10 you've explained when that meant.

11 May I, just keeping in terms of the fact that this
12 continues to be remembered, then deal with the fact that
13 the 40th anniversary commemorated Blair Peach in
14 a slightly different way -- or as well as marches and
15 demonstrations? . And is it right -- and you help us
16 in your statement at paragraph 23 -- to say that in fact
17 the system of blue plaques -- I think now run by
18 English Heritage -- on the 40th anniversary of his
19 death, placed on the outside wall of Southall Town Hall
20 a blue plaque, and that scheme is designed to honour
21 notable men and women, and that is how that was -- his
22 -- the events of 23 April were remembered on the 40th
23 anniversary in 2019; is that right?^????

24 A. Yes, and also a plaque for Gurdip Singh Chaggar,
25 the young man who was murdered by white racists in 1976.

1 Q. Thank you.

2 Might I now deal with, just to cover the reports
3 that you have in your pack for this tranche and put them
4 into a little bit of context, about other work that and
5 Friends of Blair Peach Committee were involved in to
6 support other justice campaigns. Can we just look now
7 at three reports. First behind tab 34 and that's
8 {UCPI/14149}.

9 This is a report about the Friends of Blair Peach in
10 July 1980, and I'll just read from paragraph 2:

11 "The 'Friends of Blair Peach' committee are at
12 present attempting to form a national coordinating body
13 with other such committees concerned with the cases
14 of 'State brutality' by the police and prison
15 authorities."

16 So, we can see there the efforts and coordination of
17 this particular committee with other groups.

18 Reading on, it says:

19 "Committees concerned would include the 'Richard
20 'Cartoon' Campbell Campaign' and 'Jimmy Kelly Campaign'.
21 They feel that such a move would widen the political
22 arguments behind the alleged 'brutality' and increase
23 publicity for any new incidents that might occur."

24 And if we look at the next two reports as well, can
25 we see --

1 A. Can I just say something about that? Is that all right?

2 Q. Yes.

3 A. Yes, this was a meeting -- that's right, the Jimmy Kelly
4 Campaign and Richard Campbell, I think they were
5 quite -- at that stage, there were four other campaigns
6 that we got to know, all pursuing
7 miscarriages of justice, and we felt if we pooled our
8 resources and knowledge, we could support each other.

9 The Jimmy Kelly campaign, which -- this was
10 the first time it came to the notice of
11 undercover officers, that was -- Jimmy Kelly was coming
12 home from the pub where he'd been having a drink with
13 his brother, who was on holiday from Australia, and he
14 was attacked and beaten up by police officers, who took
15 him to a police station in Liverpool, where he lived,
16 and he died in the police station.

17 Richard Campbell was a young black Rastafarian, only
18 19 years old ...

19 Q. And so your -- the committee, the Friends of Blair Peach
20 Committee --

21 A. Sorry, I didn't -- I was just pausing.

22 Q. Oh, my fault.

23 A. Sorry. That's all right.

24 He -- he -- he was treated -- he was in -- he was in
25 Ashford Prison, which is now Feltham Young Offenders.

1 He was -- he was on a -- a charge with -- I think it was
2 breaking a shop window, which he denied. He was in --
3 he -- he was fine at first. He ended up being
4 force-fed, and he died on his own, in Ashford.

5 Then there was -- there was the little (inaudible)
6 campaign. He was in a nightclub in Newcastle. He
7 was beaten up by eight police officers and he died three
8 weeks later.^ ^ TO HERE

9 And last campaign was Matthew O 'Hara he was
10 a member of the mental patients in Hackney and he was
11 taken to Pentonville prison because he refused to pay
12 a fine. He wasn't treated for his diabetes and had to
13 be taken to hospital and he also said he found -- he was
14 kicked in the stomach by a prison officer and he died in
15 his flat three weeks later.

16 And really that was us getting together. We felt
17 there was so much we could share, we could support each
18 other, we could -- we could look at inquest reform and
19 importance of having Parliamentarians on our side,
20 support each other at demonstrations, at meetings, and
21 start sharing knowledge, and we hoped in a year or two
22 to be able to employ case workers who might be able to
23 support the family at inquests which -- so that was
24 campaigning for inquest reform and ability to get legal
25 aid.

1 Q. And that's --

2 A. I don't understand why -- yes, why we were spied on.

3 Q. And that's why you were -- that's the reference -- I'm
4 trying to highlight the work of the committee and your
5 work that features in these reports and your alignment
6 with other justice campaigns?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And you've just given us some, obviously very difficult
9 for you to express. You felt very keenly about these
10 other justice campaigns that you were aligned with?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Might I just deal with one more example, bringing this
13 quite up to -- much more up to date times, as perhaps
14 the last of the reports to deal with.

15 That's {MPS/1707}, please. Now, this might not have
16 found its way into your hard copy bundle so we may just
17 have to deal with this on the screen, Ms Stubbs.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. This is 1999, and this was a report titled, "Public
20 order implications following publication of the Lawrence
21 inquiry report and other events". If I might scroll
22 down a few paragraphs to a paragraph -- I think it
23 begins, "The monitoring group ..."

24 Thank you.

25 We can see here that what's being reported back is:

1 "The Monitoring Group which is organising
2 the Blair Peach demonstration (20th anniversary of his
3 death) on 24.4.99 will be viewed as being synonymous
4 with the Lawrence death and will therefore unite all of
5 the disparate groups under one banner. Suresh Grover,
6 who is the organiser of this event, will positively
7 contribute to ensuring that the day passes off without
8 disorder. However, given the large number of groups and
9 individuals who are likely to attend this march,
10 the potential for disorder is high."

11 That's what the officer's view was that he recorded
12 and wrote back in his report. But is this -- as far as
13 your bundle for this tranche is concerned, is this
14 another example of alignment of the same feelings that
15 you were just expressing there about justice campaigns
16 and your support for them and do I take it that your
17 views remains the same, that you don't consider this to
18 be an appropriate use of undercover policing?

19 A. I certainly disagree with "potential for disorder is
20 high", because I think, as I said before, that no
21 remembrance marches for Blair ever had any disorder.
22 There was no disorder. And, you know, the groups and
23 individuals, you know, they still wanted to remember
24 Blair, yes.

25 Q. Thank you.

1 Can we take this down.

2 Ms Stubbs, thank you very much for going through
3 the events as clearly and in the chronological way that
4 we've tried to take things through this morning. I've
5 finished the questions that I wanted to highlight. As
6 I say, your clear statement and all the detail that you
7 set out in there about matters that you feel very keenly
8 about is before the Chairman and before the public,
9 published on the website with your exhibits and all
10 the detail for people to know about and consider in
11 detail.

12 Sir, that would conclude the questions that I have
13 today. I don't know if this is the convenient moment
14 for a break to see if there's any other further matters
15 that need to be aired.

16 A. Could I say -- could I say something before? Is that
17 appropriate?

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Forgive me a moment, please.

19 A. Sorry, sorry.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm just go to ask whether there was anything
21 that you wanted to say before we have a break.

22 A. Thank you.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Now that you do. Please take this
24 opportunity ^.

25 A. Thank you very much.

1 The police -- the Metropolitan Police Annual Report
2 into Southall, they said that it was the most
3 significant event of that year, Southall and Blair's
4 death, yet there isn't a single report except for that
5 gist that was mentioned -- that I mentioned earlier.
6 There's no one admitting any knowledge of the events.

7 I think the same was in Red Lion Square where
8 Kevin Gately was killed. I believe there was HN301
9 was there, but there's no -- his evidence wasn't given
10 to Scarman and there was nothing written about that.

11 The contrast between these two and what happened at
12 Lewisham in 1977 is so glaring and that's why I wanted
13 to mention it. There were 18 undercover officers at
14 Lewisham and over 50 pages of reports and yet no one was
15 dead -- no one was killed. But in the other two
16 demonstrates, somebody was killed at each of
17 the demonstrations, and it makes me think that
18 the police didn't want to be associated with deaths.
19 They -- they didn't want to -- they just didn't want to
20 be close to it. They didn't want anything to do
21 with it, so -- and that's what makes me feel that we
22 haven't -- I can't believe that there aren't statements
23 because of what -- because of Lewisham. It just doesn't
24 make sense. It feels like yet another cover-up and
25 another boulder and another, you know, once again not

1 feeling that you're being heard.

2 Also I just wanted to mention that -- about HN126.
3 I was told that his statement was pertinent to my being
4 spied upon. In fact, there's absolutely nothing in his
5 statement that involves me, except when, on
6 12 June 1979, he said he went with the SWP members of
7 the branch he was -- he'd infiltrated to view Blair laid
8 in state at the Dominion cinema in Southall. He said he
9 only went because it would have looked bad for him if he
10 hadn't and might have disturbed his undercover, but he
11 then, immediately after that, said in his statement,
12 "I never had anything to do with the family or Friends
13 of Blair Peach", and that seemed to me that -- why did
14 he make that remark? It seems as though he quickly
15 wanted to distance himself from. There must -- there
16 must be something. You know, why was I told that his --
17 his statement was pertinent to my being spied on? It
18 caused me awful anxiety, actually. Although it was
19 totally evasive, when I read it.

20 Core participants are fighting injustice in
21 a climate where they are vilified by -- by authority and
22 we've been targeted. We don't know why we've been
23 targeted. I just hope this Inquiry, you know, will
24 protect core participants and that, you know, when --
25 when you come to write your report, this will be

1 (1.00 pm)

2 MR FERNANDES: Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome back.

3 I will now hand over to the Chairman to continue
4 proceedings.

5 Chairman.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Ms Wilkinson, I understand that there are no
7 questions that you are going to be asked to ask
8 Ms Stubbs at this stage; is that correct?

9 MS WILKINSON: Yes, sir, that's correct.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Ryder, do you have any re-examination?

11 MR RYDER: No, thank you, Sir.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Ms Stubbs, thank you very much for attending
13 to give your evidence and giving the oral evidence which
14 you have given to me about the events which began
15 42 years ago. Very grateful to you. Thank you.

16 Today's proceedings are now closed.

17 MR FERNANDES: Thank you, everyone. The hearings have now
18 finished for the day. We shall resume at 10.00 am
19 tomorrow.

20 (1.01 pm)

21 (The hearing adjourned until 10.00 am on Friday, 7 May 2021)

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