

## **Undercover policing Inquiry**

### **DAVE MORRIS THIRD OPENING STATEMENT FOR T1P3 – 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

#### **Introduction**

1. I speak as a core participant in this Inquiry, and one who was targeted by police spies from the 1970s onwards both personally and as a member of targeted political and campaigning groups.
2. I have already contributed to the Inquiry a Witness Statement (20<sup>th</sup> March 2020), and two detailed Opening Statements (November 8<sup>th</sup> 2020 and 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021) for previous hearings.

#### **Standing up for the public interest against the rich and powerful**

3. As already outlined in those statements, I have been involved since 1974 in a range of groups and campaigns trying to encourage the public to support one another and empower themselves where they live and work, to challenge injustice, oppression and damage to the environment, and to make the world a better place for everyone. The various groups I have been involved in over the decades have been open and collectively-run, and engaged in the kind of public activities which the public are invited to join in or to replicate for themselves, and which are essential if humanity is to progress and survive.
4. Such groups, as we all should, question and challenge those institutions which wield power over people's lives, and control the world's resources and decision-making. These include Governments, transnational corporations, military organisations, and financial institutions. Such powerful institutions are generally tightly controlled by a small self-serving elite, continually obsessed with power and profit, and are ruthless and unaccountable. In fact, as I outlined in my April 2021 statement they are subversive of society and people's real needs – they are the real subversives that need to be investigated. Indeed they are also the cause of most of what the SDS would define as 'public disorder' in response to injustice.
5. Unsurprisingly such institutions have made a shocking mess of the world for centuries - causing mass hardship and poverty; disempowerment, discrimination and oppression; exploitation of workers and resources; horrific wars; and large scale environmental destruction. They have brought humanity to the brink of nuclear annihilation, and have been systematically exploiting and destroying the natural environment upon which human society depends for our survival.
6. Many of the groups I have been involved with believe that the evidence of history demonstrates that such institutions can't be successfully reformed and turned

into benevolent, useful public bodies. However history also demonstrates that grassroots movements for change, if large enough and determined enough, can shift the balance of power and win concessions and victories for the public along the way.

7. The groups I have been involved in have tried their best to support efforts to build 'single issue' and other campaigns and movements to improve things in the here and now. Some of those groups logically also call for the hierarchical and authoritarian institutions which are causing the shocking problems humanity unfortunately has to face to be replaced in the long term by a genuinely democratic way of running society. One in which people all over the world collectively manage their own neighbourhoods, workplaces and lives, and ensure that all the resources are shared fairly and all decision-making is for the public good.

8. I am proud of the many groups and campaigns I have been involved in and believe that such efforts should be supported, not undermined.

### **SDS targeting in the 1970s**

9. In the Tranche 1 period this included the London Workers Group (supporting workers challenging exploitation at work), Union of Postal Workers and 'Post Office Worker' magazine (supporting fellow postal workers), Anarchy Magazine (spreading anti-authoritarian ideas and news), the Persons Unknown Support Group (a campaign in defence of activists arrested, found at trial to be not guilty), and the Torness Alliance (opposition to the development of nuclear energy).

10. As we heard in the previous hearing, I was heavily and personally targeted whilst involved with Anarchy Magazine by police infiltrator 'Graham Coates', who concluded: *'The anarchists I reported on posed a minimal challenge to public order.' 'I do not think either IS [the International Socialists] or the anarchist movement was subversive in terms of their actions.' 'I do not believe any info I provided... was particularly significant. I do not think it would have made any difference to public order if I had not worked for the SDS.'*

11. The London Workers Group was infiltrated by 'Tony Williams', who was a spy from 1978-1982. His statement has so far been withheld from me as for some reason he has been allocated to Tranche 2. It is therefore impossible to comment or ask questions of his managers about the extent of this unlawful and disgusting infiltration of what was an open group, and about the other groups he targeted. However, we know from two of the disclosed documents [UCPI000013474/13597] that he became firstly the Treasurer of the London Workers Group and then the Secretary, giving him full access to personal information on the group's supporters, no doubt to be passed on to M15 for blacklisting purposes. Interestingly, another document [UCPI0000027515] from M15 dated 30<sup>th</sup> July 1982 states that when 'Tony Williams'

was due to be withdrawn from the SDS in 1982 the MI5 F6 manager had met with HN68, who considered it was no 'great loss' as 'Tony Williams's work had not been 'particularly productive'.

12. The Inquiry has requested that core participants provide photos of UCOs. To help the Inquiry I attach [Appendix 1] a photo I took of 'Tony Williams' at the time, 1980 - please confirm it is him so that others he came in contact with have the chance to have their memories jogged and to contribute relevant evidence.

13. Regarding the Torness Alliance, this was a UK wide campaign to oppose the building of a new nuclear power station in Scotland. The main objections were firstly the threat of catastrophic nuclear accidents (as had almost happened at Three Mile Island in the US, and later happened at Chernobyl in Ukraine resulting in an estimated 9-16,000 deaths subsequently from air pollution throughout Europe). And secondly the lack of safe disposal of nuclear waste which would be dangerously radioactive for thousands of years. 10,000 people protested at the site in 1979, and there were some follow-up protests in the year afterwards. I was involved in this campaign. London Greenpeace were heavily involved in this movement, and I later got involved with that group around 1982. London Greenpeace was infiltrated by the SDS for many years, as we will come to in Tranche 2.

14. According to their witness statements for T1P3 a number of SDS UCOs (including 'Phil Cooper') were infiltrating the anti-nuclear movement, and at least 4 SDS managers visited the Torness site (including Trevor Butler, Barry Moss, Christopher Skey and Paul Croyden). However, we are unfortunately expecting most of the evidence and documentation relevant to this movement and London Greenpeace to not be disclosed until Tranche 2.

### **Important evidence available**

15. The 1979 Special Branch Annual Report is disclosed in full (151 pages), and contains a huge wealth of relevant evidence about the SDS and its operation. For example it includes 3 explicit references to myself in the monthly sections for January, May (a highly detailed personal evaluation) and November, and many other references to groups and events I was involved with. The 1979 Report crucially includes the uses to which SDS 'intelligence' was being put, and the wider context in which the infiltration of left wing and campaign groups was taking place – with a month by month chronology and very helpful Index cross referencing the names of over 200 targeted groups and over 100 targeted individuals in that year alone. The other SB Annual Reports disclosed are thin and vague in comparison (mostly only 4-20 pages). The full reports for all the relevant years (including for the forthcoming

Tranches) should be disclosed as soon as possible. This will help identify the full list of the 1,000 groups targeted.

16. Due to the many delays during the Inquiry and the further delays expected, all the Witness Statements already taken from UCOs should be disclosed as soon as possible. This is essential so that core participants can begin to prepare their responses, including seeking out others from groups and events affected by the spying operation over the life of the SDS (and later the NPIOU), rather than having to wait for years until the last minute when it is generally too late to prepare evidence effectively.

### **A key Question for Managers**

17. Why did the Police never consider the welfare (as well as the Human Rights) of those members of the public they targeted – the victims? Surely they had a duty of care whilst invading and influencing people's lives? Surely any normal human being would do so anyway, duty of care or not?

18. In contrast the UCPI, at the behest of the police, is strongly applying privacy and Human Rights concerns to protect the identity and welfare of UCOs. This sudden conversion to such rights not previously of any concern of the secret units during their operations is surely staggering hypocrisy. It would be seen as ironic if it wasn't so serious. Many might think that those who secretly invaded and abused people's lives should have vacated their own privacy rights. Furthermore in most core participants' opinion, the current privacy strategy of the police and Inquiry is the key cause of the massive problems, costs and delays in the Inquiry.

19. The public would expect that such privacy protection criteria be applied a hundred times more strongly when evaluating the unlawfulness of the SDS and the rights of those victims who were seeking a better society who were thereby secretly targeted, lied to, abused, manipulated, and reported on to the police and secret services.

### **Conclusion**

20. I have read and support the impressive detailed Opening Statements made on behalf of the Category H core participants, and on behalf of the Cooperating Group of core participants. These statements clearly demonstrate that the entire secret SDS operation was unacceptable and unlawful, as well as being worthless. It demonstrates that the police were institutionally anti-democratic, as well as being institutionally sexist, racist and anti-working-class.

20. The infiltration of left wing and progressive groups and campaigns and the invasions of their members' lives, should never have been allowed to happen. Managers, and those higher up the chain – all the way to Police Chiefs and Government Ministers – must apologise and be held responsible and accountable.

Dave Morris