

Cover Sheet

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[REDACTED]

MEMORANDUM

Chief Superintendent Cunningham

During the last three months a group of officers under my command has been engaged in obtaining detailed information about the activities of members of extreme left wing political factions grouped under the aegis of the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign. This experience has enabled us to obtain a very fair idea of the basic requirements for a long-term operation of this type involving penetration in depth of these organisations.

The first requirement is a head-quarters flat, or office, to serve two main purposes. It is a meeting place for officers who are unable to call at C.O. or any other Police premises in case their 'cover' might be 'blown'; it is also a place where they can prepare their reports and consult official publications and papers. This head-quarters flat is not used as an address by any of the operational officers lest its whereabouts become known.

At present we are occupying premises in a block of flats
1 in the [REDACTED] area which has [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] and cosmopolitan neighbours of a non-curious disposition. It is entirely suitable for our purposes, and the agent is willing to let us remain at these premises for a period of six months. [REDACTED]

2 [REDACTED] The basic rent is £720 a year, but charges for electricity, water, rates and telephone will make the total cost about £900 a year.

During the past three months, we have also rented two

'cover' addresses, and for the receipt of mail. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] at public meetings and private gatherings of extremists, and if we were to continue on this basis a certain amount of suspicion would be bound to arise. Separate addresses would seem to be the answer, and at the present time there are eight officers requiring 'cover' of this type. In one case two officers can share an address, but the others will each require separate accommodation so that their stories can be substantiated. This means obtaining seven suitable smaller flats for the use of these officers. It is estimated this would cost about £2,100 a year.

The head-quarter flat will need to be furnished with a cabinet or safe to hold documents, and a typewriter; I suggest that these items be non-Police type equipment purchased on the open market. The last requirement relates to transport; the arrangement whereby we have the use of two contract-hire motor vehicles, changeable weekly, is an ideal one and could well be continued.

We have found that the anonymity of the officers involved in operations is best preserved by paying for accommodation in cash. This cuts out any over-elaborate deception needed in using cheques, references, etc. Immediate cash payment in this way also enables the officer to change his address at a moments' notice if extremists become in any way suspicious of his activities.

[REDACTED]

Special Branch
24th November 1958

Courad Dixon
Chief Inspector

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