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HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

QPE/66 1/8/5

Your Ref: 588/UNREG/694 Pt III

1 April 1980

Dear Gilbert,

You wrote to Robert Andrew on 7 March about the Special Demonstration Squad.

We note the continuing value of the squad and, in view of your assurances about security and supervision, agree that it should continue. You may take this letter as authority to continue with ^{the} arrangements and to incur expenditure of £19,400 in 1980/81.

yours sincerely

(DAVID HEATON)

G J Kelland Esq. CBE, QPM
New Scotland Yard
Broadway
London SW1M 0BG

[REDACTED]

R J Andrew Esq
Deputy Under Secretary of State
Home Office
Queen Anne's Gate
London
SW1H 9AT

Our reference:
588/UNREG/694 Pt III

Your reference:
QPE/66 1/8/5

7th March 1980

Dear

1. I am writing to seek approval for the continued operation of the Special Demonstration Squad of Special Branch.
 2. As you are aware, the Squad was formed in 1968 and since that time has provided a constant flow of information concerning the activities of extremist organisations and individuals.
 3. The focal point of much of the extremist activity in 1979 was the General Election held in May with the extreme Left contriving to take advantage of the National Front's election campaign to provoke hostile confrontation whenever possible. The culmination of the virulent anti-fascist demonstrations was the death of the Anti-Nazi League supporter Blair PEAUGH and the subsequent campaign against Police. During this period the Special Demonstration Squad was able to provide useful information which was invaluable, enabling uniformed officers to be effectively deployed.
 4. The anticipated upsurge in anti-nuclear activity continues and the hard-core anarchist element within the movement remains a constant threat. Assistance was provided during the year both to the Metropolitan Police and to various Provincial Forces, in particular the Lothian and Borders Police in connection with the "Torncross Gathering" organised to protest against the building of a new nuclear reactor.
 5. The forthcoming year threatens a period of regular confrontation between the Government and the broad Left over attempts to legislate against certain forms of picketing and to restrain the power of the Trades Union. This, in addition to the continuing hostility
- [REDACTED]

exhibited publicly between the extreme elements of the Left and Right heralds a busy year for the Special Demonstration Squad.

6. Security, as always, remains a vital criterion of the Squad and direct supervision is invested in a Chief Superintendent and Superintendent, close interest being maintained by both the Commissioner and myself.

7. It has not been felt necessary to change either of the headquarter flats during the year but five 'cover' flats were changed for either security or general operational reasons.

8. The system of allocating second-hand cars to 'field' officers on an individual basis has continued to prove highly successful.

9. The budget for the financial year 1979/80 of £16,880 will almost certainly prove adequate, the total expenditure for the first nine months being £11,298.25. However, the effects of inflation are likely to render it impossible to operate within the same budget during 1980/1981 and it is therefore requested that an increase of fifteen per cent be granted, bringing it to a total of £19,400 (an amount which includes the figure of £4,000 incorporated in the 1979/80 budget, but previously borne by the Metropolitan Police Incidental Fund).

Yours

G J Kelland
Assistant Commissioner

Special Branch
Special Demonstration Squad

28 February 1980

MEMORANDUM

Chief Superintendent 'S' Squad

Special Demonstration Squad Transport

1. The policy of allocating 'private' motor vehicles to SDS officers has continued throughout 1979 and the approved fleet of fourteen vehicles was in full operation for most of the year. Six vehicles were disposed of and six were taken into use during this period.

2. A record of all vehicles used during 1979 is submitted with this report and it includes a breakdown of the total operational costs for the period 1 January 1979 to 31 December 1979. Running costs will be seen to be 12.4p per mile, an acceptable figure when it is borne in mind that the safety-related items contained in the memorandum of 2 May 1979 from [REDACTED] (T6 Section) were fully implemented in respect of all appropriate vehicles.

3. Administration of the SDS fleet, including acquisition and disposal of vehicles has involved close liaison with 'T' Branch ([REDACTED]), G9 Branch ([REDACTED]) and Commander B10 (Chief Inspector [REDACTED]).

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T Butler
Detective Inspector

DETAILS OF SDS FLEET AND OPERATIONAL COSTS FOR THE PERIOD 1.1.79 - 31.3.79

FLEET NO.	MAKE/TYPE	INDEX No.	CHANGES/DATES	MILEAGE RUN	FUEL COSTS	RUNNING COSTS	TOTAL COSTS	
				3,564	85.56	73.31	158.87	
				2,852	108.04	70.78	178.82	
				2639	91.65	119.80	211.45	
				1,809	83.53	22.21	105.74	
				1,407	93.36	95.36	188.72	
				3,231	84.44	20.30	104.74	
				7,099 *	344.30	50.67	394.97	
				1,370 *	113.78	55.58	169.36	
				4,651	120.00	259.04	379.04	
				3,827	119.37	54.21	173.58	
				1,926	102.31	32.84	135.15	
				1,763	101.17	46.87	148.04	
				3,292	99.03	74.66	173.69	
				2,378	84.90	29.81	114.71	
	222	30.90		30.90				
* Odometer defective - Estimated mileage				TOTAL	42,310	£1,662.34	£1,005.44	£2667.78

DETAILS OF SDS FLEET AND OPERATIONAL COSTS FOR THE PERIOD 1.1.79 - 31.12.79

FLEET No.	MAKE/TYPE	INDEX No.	CHANGES/DATES	MILEAGE RUN	FUEL COSTS	RUNNING COSTS	TOTAL COSTS
4				13,518	430.29	565.65	995.94
				7,889	431.52	542.08	973.60
				9,075	397.13	514.70	911.83
				1,589	116.88		116.88
				8,909	831.83	2,862.46	3,694.29
				9,855	416.27	506.97	923.24
				2,621	87.83	107.28	195.11
				1,416	146.25	319.02	465.27
				2,900 *	134.68	170.47	305.15
				17,418 *	1,247.32	1,470.79	2,718.11
				7,923	494.74	1,070.00	1,564.74
				20,276	947.57	1,017.44	1,965.01
				11,671	297.67	298.97	596.64
				9,633	643.88	1,431.38	2,075.76
				9,204	380.03	1,236.59	1,616.62
				8,389 *	407.46	331.87	739.33
				12,376	806.98	1,135.98	1,942.96
				* Odometer Defective - Estimated mileage (2months only)			
			TOTAL	154,662	£8,218.33	£13,581.65	£21,799.98

SA



Special Demonstration Squad
Special Branch
New Scotland Yard
SW1H OBG

ANNUAL REPORT - 1979

INTRODUCTION:

1. This report deals with the activities of the Special Demonstration Squad during the year ending 31st December 1979. Since its inception in 1968 the Squad has continued to provide information of value in both the field of public order and in respect of security and criminal intelligence. Information obtained from this delicate source has allowed a realistic assessment to be made of numbers likely to be involved in extreme left-wing and anarchist demonstrations and the probable intentions of the participants, enabling uniformed police officers to be appropriately deployed to frustrate planned disorder and safeguard property. Intelligence gained on individual members of extremist organisations is always invaluable to Special Branch officers in both the Metropolitan Police District and the Provinces and to the Security Service.

COVERAGE:

2. SDS officers have either penetrated the following organisations or have gained access to them, thus monitoring the activities of those extremists with the greatest propensity to violence:-

Trotskyist

Socialist Workers Party

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Womens Voice

Socialist Unity

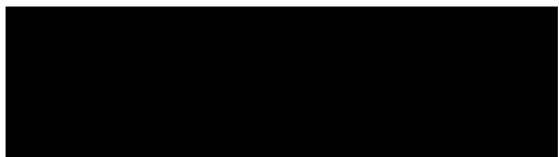
Right to Work Campaign

4E

Spartacist League

4F

Revolutionary Communist Tendency
Flame



Marxist-Leninist

Revolutionary Communist League of Britain

4K
4L
4M
4N
4O
4P

4Q
4R
4S

Anarchist

Freedom Collective
Anarchy Collective
Persons Unknown
Autonomous Group (formerly LSE Monday Club)
Revolutionary Prisoners Group
London Workers Group

4W

Syndicalist Workers Federation
Direct Action Movement
Rising Free Collective
London Weekly Collective

Anti-Fascist

Anti-Nazi League
Schoolkids Against the Nazis
Stop All Racist Tours

Anti-Nuclear

4AC
4AD
4AE
4AF
4AG
4AH
4AI
4AJ
4AK

PERSONNEL

3. The current numerical strength of the SDS is sixteen officers. Eleven are operational 'field' officers (4 Sergeants and 7 Constables) and supervision and administration are carried out by 1 Chief Inspector, 1 Inspector and two Sergeants. In addition 1 Sergeant is employed in the office pending transfer to operational duties. Overall supervision is exercised by a Chief Superintendent and a Superintendent who have responsibility for all 'S' Squad matters.

4. Changes in personnel in the year include the replacement of two field officers and of the Inspector and office Sergeant having responsibility for administration and supervision of reports. Both the Chief Inspector and Inspector were promoted and examination success was achieved by one Sergeant and one Constable in the field, the latter officer gaining a place on the Special Course at the Police Staff College at Bramshill.

WELFARE

5. The nature of the delicate and difficult duty performed by SDS operational officers renders it imperative that close supervision and attention to welfare are continuously maintained. Regular contact is established through group meetings held twice a week at HQ flats and by personal meetings which ensure that every officer is frequently met on an individual basis.

6. The office staff are available to offer assistance and guidance at all times and in this context use is made of GPO radio-paging equipment. Further contact is provided by weekly promotion classes organised by the Inspector and in 1980 seven Constables sat the Constables examination and four Sergeants are studying for the April examination.

SECURITY

7. At a time when covert Police activity is being subjected to increasingly close and critical scrutiny it remains of vital importance that all possible precautions should be taken to safeguard the 'identities' of field officers and the anonymity of HQ flats. To this end careful attention is paid to establishing the background of officers and constant consideration is given to arranging alternative accommodation. During the past year it has not been felt necessary to change either HQ venue. The onus of arranging individual 'cover' flats rests with the field officers, with security being the first criterion for selection.

REVIEW

8. During the past year the SDS supplied regular information concerning extremist political activity and the following examples are worth recording:-

9. The General Election held in May was the focal point of intensive activity by several extremist parties. The Socialist Workers Party eschewed contesting any constituency in favour of a policy of confronting the National Front during the latter party's election campaign. The SWP contrived to make use of all public meetings arranged by the NF to arouse anti-fascist feeling; the death of Blair PEACH, an active supporter of the Anti-Nazi League, which was a consequence of a violent anti-fascist demonstration in Southall, provided the extreme left wing with an opportunity to mount a sustained campaign to discredit and criticise the Police. Information supplied by SDS staff was of great value in enabling uniformed officers to deal effectively with the public order problems which arose both during the period before the election and on subsequent demonstrations held in connection with the death of PEACH.

10. Anti-fascist demonstrations were not of course confined to the Metropolitan Police District and the St George's Day march held in Leicester on 21st April 1979 and organised by the National Front was predictably challenged by a strong and determined left-wing opposition. SDS officers were able to provide advance information to the Leicestershire Constabulary concerning the intentions of the SWP and their allies and were, in fact, in attendance during the demonstration, thus procuring relevant intelligence for subsequent use by Special Branch and the Security Service.

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12. The monitoring of anarchist activity continued throughout the year with particular attention being paid to the supporters of five anarchists who came to trial on a variety of charges involving robbery and firearms offences. The four defendants who pleaded not guilty were all acquitted but useful intelligence was gleaned about members of support groups established on their behalf.

TRANSPORT

13. Transport details are dealt with elsewhere (TR 14/73/10 Pt II) but it is worth mentioning in this report that the existing system of allocating motor vehicles to officers on an individual basis continues to be successful. In this respect the liaison maintained with B, G and T Departments is highly valued.

FINANCE

14. 1978/1979 Budget £11,200

Figures for the first nine months of this financial year are contained in the 1979 Annual Report.

	<u>Expenditure for</u> <u>the period</u> <u>1.1.79 to 31.3.79</u>	<u>Total Expenditure</u> <u>for the year</u> <u>1.4.78 to 31.3.79</u>
Rent	£1,909.65	£7,904.78
Gas & Electricity	222.23	612.76
Telephone	320.56	767.44
Rates	NIL	430.43
Operational Expenses	829.26	1,912.21
	<u>£3,281.70</u>	<u>£11,627.62</u>

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The SDS accounts for 1978/79 were audited by [REDACTED], F3 Branch, on 4th April 1979 and found correct.

15. 1979/1980 Budget £16,880

Details of expenditure incurred during the first nine months of the current financial year are as follows:-

Rent	£6,147.87
Gas & Electricity	524.54
Telephone	404.43
Rates	515.16
Operational Expenses	3,706.25
	<u>£11,298.25</u>

It is improbable that the 1979/80 budget will be exceeded within the remaining quarter of the financial year. However the accounts of the forthcoming twelve months period will undoubtedly reflect the high rate of inflation and it is felt that an increase in the budget of fifteen per cent is required to maintain operations at the existing level. The sum required is, therefore, £19,400. (This amount includes the figure of £4000 previously borne by the Metropolitan Police Incidental Fund and incorporated in the 1979/80 budget.)
FUTURE OPERATIONS - 1980

16. Following the victory of the Conservative Party in the 1979 General Election it is already apparent that we are entering a period of confrontation between the Government and the political left on a very broad front. Legislation to diminish the effects of picketing and to restrain the power of the Trades Union is certain to provoke robust opposition from the Left.

17. 1980 will almost certainly witness a considerable growth in the field of anti-nuclear activity. In this connection plans to 'occupy' the Torness reactor site in May are thought to be at an advanced stage and actions in protest against the carriage of nuclear waste are likely to increase throughout the year. In addition episodes of confrontation between the left-wing and fascist groups will inevitably present a regular and serious threat to public order.

18. A constant supply of intelligence about the intentions of the extremists remains an essential ingredient of police preparations in preventing disorder and is the primary object of the Special Demonstration Squad.

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Butler

reactor