



HOME OFFICE  
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE  
LONDON SW1H 9AT

LA

QPE/66 1/8/5

8 March 1979

*Alan Gilbert,*

Thank you for your letter to Robert Andrew of  
23 February about the Special Demonstration Squad.

We fully recognise the continuing value of the squad  
and I am grateful for your assurances both on security  
and supervision. This letter may be taken as authority  
to continue with the arrangements and to incur expendi-  
ture of £16,880 in 1979/80.

I note that this will include £4,000 hitherto borne by  
the Metropolitan Police Incidental Fund.

*Seen, thank you.*

A



19. 3. 79

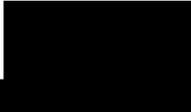
*Received*

*Yours sincerely*

(DAVID HEATON)

*CBE*  
GJ Kelland Esq/QPM  
New Scotland Yard  
Broadway  
London SW1

*JW*  
*Stalls Admin & Ops SA*  
*Acc has seen. Lia note &*  
*then to D/C/S - S. Squad*  
*for action.*



B

*SB 588/Unreg/604*  
*PTI ref 12*



*DKC*  
*9/3/79*

2A



Our reference:  
588/UNREC/69), Pt III

Your reference:  
OPN/66 1/8/5

R J Andrew Esq  
Deputy Under-Secretary-of-State  
Home Office  
Queen Anne's Gate  
London SW1

23 February 1979

Dear

I write once again to seek formal approval to maintain the Special Demonstration Squad operating within Special Branch for a further year. The squad, as you may recall, was first authorised in 1968 to help police combat serious public disorder.

The purpose of the squad remains that of gathering intelligence which is unobtainable from other sources about revolutionary and anarchist organisations who threaten public disorder in the Metropolis. Such intelligence is invaluable in assessing the required police coverage at demonstrations, and vital information is also obtained for the benefit of the Security Service and other police forces.

Throughout 1978 such intelligence was regularly provided by the SDS in respect of the numerous National Front/Anti Nazi League confrontations, more particularly those in the East End. Evidence was also obtained that some organisations are attempting to exacerbate anti-nuclear protest in this country and detailed information has been supplied to the provincial police forces concerned. In June 1978, penetration of the anarchist scene enabled police to arrest two members of a cell wanted for conspiracy to cause explosions.

Apart from the constant desire of revolutionary and anarchist groups to pursue a subversive line through street demonstrations and political crime, tension at the forthcoming general election must be heightened by the avowal of the 'ultra left' to oppose 300 National Front candidates at every opportunity.

Squad security is maintained at a very high level, with the closest individual supervision of each of the twelve 'field' officers. Needless to say, a keen interest is also taken in their activities and welfare by the Commissioner and myself.

During the course of the year one of the headquarters flats and three individual 'cover' flats have been changed for security reasons, but finding alternative accommodation in appropriate areas consistent with security, expense and operational compatibility is not an easy task.

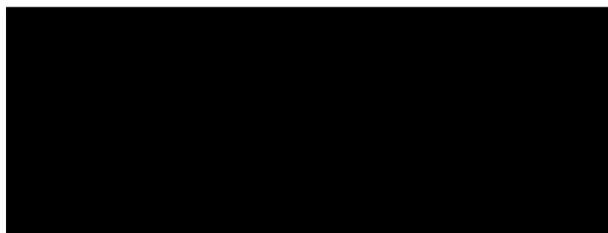
The use of second-hand cars by the officers remains an invaluable asset

The budget of £11,200 for the financial year 1978/79 has proved sufficient, although, unlike previous years, the possibility of a surplus is unlikely because of inflation and increased operational expenses. Expenditure in the first nine months of the year 1978/79 was £8,345. It will be difficult to counter the effects of inflation during the coming year, and the projected basic budgetary figure for 1979/80 of £12,880 seems reasonable. Additionally, I would like to point out that since its inception, the SDS has met certain operational expenses such as membership fees, the purchase of left-wing literature, expenses incurred in providing minor equipment for 'cover' flats, and various levies imposed by political groups from the Metropolitan Police Incidental Fund. These expenses amount on average to £6.40 per week per officer and are not 'incidental' expenses in the accepted police sense. This anomaly was revealed during a financial review following the tightening up of force 'incidental' expenditure.

It is therefore requested that an additional £1,000 be added to the basic budget, thus bringing it to a total of £16,880, for which I also seek your approval.

Yours

C



G J KERRILLAND  
Assistant Commissioner (Crime)



Special Demonstration Squad  
Special Branch

MEMORANDUM

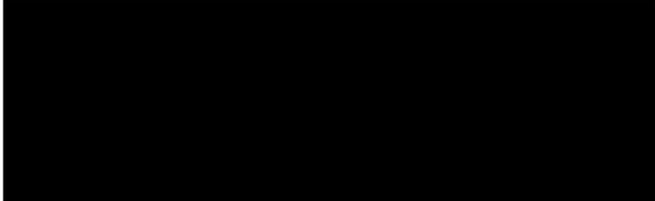
31 January 1979

ANNUAL REPORT - 1978

1. INTRODUCTION

(i) This report deals with the activities of the Special Demonstration Squad during the year ending 31 December 1978, and covers its personnel, administration, finances and general security. It is also the basis for asking Home Office approval for the continuing existence of the Squad, and it is therefore relevant to set out the raison d'etre of the SDS.

(ii) During 1968 there was considerable public disorder in London surrounding various demonstrations held to protest about the war in Vietnam, and because of the dearth of accurate information relating to these events, policing them efficiently proved an almost impossible task. As a consequence the extremists involved in these rallies and marches saw the mass demonstration as an ideal vehicle for causing the maximum amount of disorder by direct confrontation with the police. The climax was scheduled for October 27th with a mass rally and demonstration in Grosvenor Square. Although it was felt that the organisers would undoubtedly pay lip service to the legal requirements laid upon them, it was evident that their co-operation would be at the best minimal and at the worst deliberately obstructive. To counteract this, the SDS was set up with the specific task of obtaining detailed first hand information about this demonstration, in order that the appropriate measures could be taken by the Metropolitan Police to combat the threatened (and planned) disorder.



(iii) In the light of these events, and in the growing climate of political unrest fomented by extremists, it was felt appropriate to retain the SDS albeit on a temporary basis, with an annual review of its activities. Since that time the Squad has continued to provide first hand information about the many and varied threats to public order, ranging from the Stop the Seventies Tour and the Irish Civil Rights Campaign of the early 1970's to the current Anti-Nazi League activities (the extremist Socialist Worker's Party front group) and the picketing of Garners Steak Houses.

(iv) An extremely valuable by-product of the SDS has been the wealth of information obtained about individual extremists, ranging from members of the Angry Brigade to the current group of anarchists involved in conspiracies to rob etc.

(v) The quality and variety of intelligence obtained during the course of the SDS operation has proved invaluable not only to the Uniform Branch of the Metropolitan Police, but also to Special Branch officers as a whole, numerous Constabularies and various departments of the Security Services.

2. COVERAGE

(i) The following organisations are or have been penetrated during the course of the year or access has been gained to them. Those marked \*\* are not currently penetrated, due to change of personnel, but where necessary they will be targets for future operations:-

TROTSKYIST

Socialist Workers Party

International Marxist Group

Womens Voice

Socialist Unity

TROTSKYIST (Contd)

[E]

[REDACTED]

Right to Work Campaign  
National Organisation of International Socialist Students  
Rank and File Movements

[H]

[REDACTED]

MAOIST

[I]

[REDACTED]

[J]

[REDACTED]

[K]

[REDACTED]

Communist Party of England (Marxist-Leninist) \*\*  
Progressive Cultural Association \*\*  
East London Peoples Front \*\*  
Indian Workers Movement \*\*  
West Indian Defence Committee \*\*  
Indian Defence Committee \*\*  
Ford Workers Committee \*\*  
Irish Support and Friendship Committee \*\*  
London Students Movement \*\*

PRO-IRISH

[L]

[REDACTED]

British Withdrawal from Northern Ireland Campaign \*\*  
Troops Out Movement \*\*  
Trades Union Committee against Prevention of Terrorism Act \*\*

ANARCHIST

Freedom Collective  
Anarchy Collective  
East London Libertarians  
Persons Unknown (PUNK)  
Zero Collective (now defunct)  
London Workers Group  
Federation of London Anarchists Group

[REDACTED]



ANARCHIST (Contd)

Syndicalist Workers Federation  
Rising Free Collective  
Graffiti Collective  
Anarcho-Utopian Mystics  
Monday Club (London School of Economics Anarchist Group)  
Reading University Anarchists

OTHERS

Q  
R  
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V

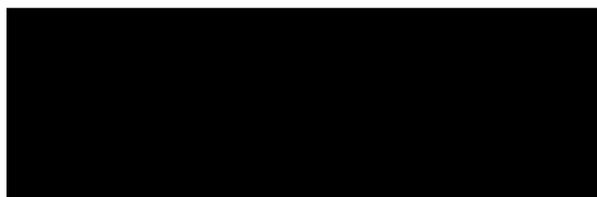


ANTI-FASCIST

Anti-Nazi League  
School Kids Against the Nazis

(ii) Numerous local groups, particularly anti-Fascist, have been penetrated by extremists. Where these groups have been in areas covered by SDS officers, their activities have been monitored for public order reasons.

(iii) The Special Demonstration Squad provides a continual flow of information of various types; public order, security and criminal activities. To summarise this intelligence would be a long and detailed task, but some items of particular interest where the SDS has been the main or sole source of information are worthy of note:



[REDACTED]

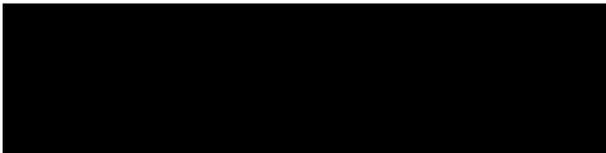
(a) Throughout the year intelligence relating to National Front/Anti-Nazi League confrontations was provided. The most interesting examples of these related to Brick Lane, E1, [REDACTED], N1, [WW] Walthamstow Market, E17, Ealing Broadway, W5 and the Whitgift Centre, Croydon. But finally in this context, the Remembrance Day Parade, held under the auspices of the National Front in Whitehall, which could have been the scene of considerable public disorder, did in fact pass without undue incident, primarily because of the information obtained by SDS officers in the 24 hours preceding this event. (It should be stressed that extremist groups now only co-operate notionally with police on public demonstrations, and that their plans for any 'direct action' are rarely finalised more than 24 hours beforehand).

[X] (b)

[REDACTED]

(c) During the past year SDS coverage of the Anarchist scene has been continued. In June, two people, known by forenames only and wanted by police for conspiracy to cause explosions, were identified, and although their appearance had been changed radically, located and as a result of the information provided they were arrested.

[REDACTED]



(iv) Although these are but three examples of information provided by the SDS, they are a useful indication of the overall intelligence gained by these officers.

3. PERSONNEL

(i) Unlike many organisations which have followed Parkinson's Law, the SDS, which had 18 field officers in 1969, reduced its strength the following year to 12, and has since that time operated with a maximum of 12 field officers, which does in fact appear to be the optimum figure for a Unit of this nature.

The current strength of the SDS is:-

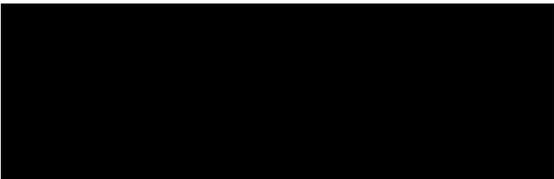
1 Detective Chief Inspector	Overall responsibility
1 Detective Inspector	Deputy
2 Detective Sergeants	General administration (transport, finance and clerical duties - pre- paration of reports etc)
1 Detective Constable	general duties, awaiting transfer to field duties in April 1979
4 Detective Sergeants	} field officers
7 Detective Constables	

(ii) During the current year, three field officers have been replaced, two having completed their tour of duty - four years is the accepted duration - and a third after some 2½ years who was offered a place at 

[1]

(iii) On the administrative side there have been two changes, with a new DCI taking over responsibility for the SDS in February and the Detective Sergeant with special responsibility for transport and finance being replaced in April. The appointment of the DCI created a precedent, in that he is the first officer to hold this post with previous experience of SDS operational work, having been a field officer

[2]



[REDACTED]

4. WELFARE/SUPERVISION

(i) Because of the nature of the operation, it is axiomatic that the field officers are not seen to have any contact with police officers or other members of the 'Establishment', unless it be at the request of their 'comrades'. However, twice a week, meetings are held at one or other of the two secure Headquarters Flats, when all members of the SDS are in normal circumstances present. Additionally, individual members of the field team are seen during the course of the week, so that over a period of three weeks each one will have had an opportunity to discuss privately his particular work and any problems either of a professional or domestic nature. It is also an accepted practice that any member of the field team can seek advice etc from any of the administrative staff at any time, whether by telephone or personal contact.

(ii) It will be readily appreciated therefore that although the field officers work is by definition totally unsupervised, there is constant contact with their immediate supervisors which leads to very close monitoring of an extremely delicate operation.

(iii) Additionally, as the Special Demonstration Squad comes under the umbrella of "S" Squad - which is responsible for various technical and support services for Special Branch as a whole - additional supervision is provided by the Detective Chief Superintendent and Detective Superintendent. Furthermore, a keen interest is taken in the affairs of the Squad by the other senior officers of Special Branch and regular meetings between the DAC and/or Commander Operations are arranged.

(iv) Although work on the SDS of necessity involves long hours of duty and domestic disruption, all officers are actively encouraged to take the appropriate Competitive Police Examinations. Promotion classes are conducted by the Detective Inspector, and three Detective Constables passed the January examination and have since been promoted to Detective Sergeants. They were all retained on the SDS under the provisions of the "exceptional retention" clause as approved by the Commissioner. Seven Detective Constables sat the January 1979 examination and two Detective Sergeants will sit the Inspectors Examination.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(v) Finally, in this sphere, considerable emphasis is placed upon the physical fitness of all officers in the Special Demonstration Squad. It is worthy of note therefore that the sickness record of the SDS officers reads:-

<u>Certified sick</u>	<u>Uncertified sick</u>	<u>Total Days</u>
Nil	4 days (3 officers)	4

When compared with the averages for sickness for the Metropolitan Police as a whole (11 days and 3.5 days per officer per annum) ie nil and .35 days it must indicate at least that the long hours and demanding work in which they are involved does not have a deleterious effect upon their health. The year 1978 has not been an exceptional one in this respect - the sickness record of the SDS has always been extraordinarily low.

5. SECURITY

(1) It is of paramount importance that the SDS operation remains a secure one, and no effort is spared to maintain this security. It is inevitable that over the years the existence of the SDS has become known to an increasing number of police officers, intelligently deduced by the "opposition" and speculated upon by the Press, and apart from blanket denials that such an organisation exists there is little that can be done to prevent such knowledge existing. The security precautions taken are therefore directed mainly towards the individual rather than the group, and to this end each new field officer is thoroughly schooled in his new identity, background, etc, so that his 'cover story' is as authentic as possible. Over the months he learns to live with his 'alter ego', which in itself provides its own security. The final problem arises when the officer has to return to normal police duty, because he is obviously restricted in his area of work (hence the use of the 'exceptional clause' for successful competitors in the Police Exam) and the appropriate steps are taken to 'place' the officer concerned in a position where his former activities will not be compromised.

[REDACTED]

It is also considered that the officer himself should be allowed as much say in the matter of future employment as is practicable, as this represents one of the few tangible rewards which can be offered for what must be outstanding devotion to duty. Of the three officers who left the SDS in 1978, [REDACTED] [3]

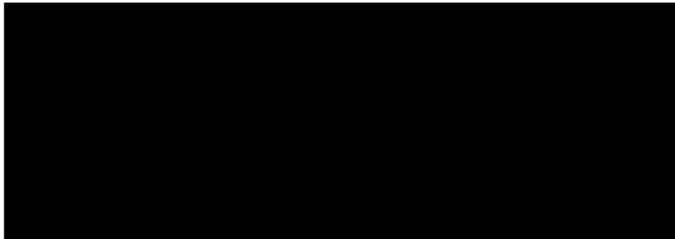
[3] [REDACTED] one works with the European Liaison Section and [REDACTED]

6. ACCOMMODATION

The choice of flats for the field officer remains with the individual concerned with the underlying strictures of security, expense and compatibility. During the course of the year three have been changed, for reasons of compatibility. One of the Headquarters flats was changed, because by general consensus it was 'felt to be insecure' - mainly through its location.

7. TRANSPORT

The minutiae of this aspect of the SDS operation are dealt with separately (TR 14/73/10 part 2 refers), but once again the provision of 'privately owned' motor vehicles has proved of inestimable value to all concerned. The assistance and co-operation of B, G and T Departments (<sup>5</sup>[REDACTED] T6 and <sup>5</sup>[REDACTED] G9 in particular) has greatly aided the smooth running of this side of the Operation.



8. FINANCE

(i) 1977/78 budget £9,800

Figures for the first nine months of this financial year are contained in the 1978 Annual Report.

	<u>Expenditure</u> <u>for the period</u> <u>1.1.78 to 31.3.78</u>	<u>Total expenditure</u> <u>for the year</u> <u>1.4.77 to 31.3.78</u>
Rent	£2,022.69	£7,028.41
Gas & Electricity	174.43	482.60
Telephone	-	479.46
Rates	5.61	419.57
Operational Expenses	138.34	776.40
	<u>£2,341.07</u>	<u>£9,186.44</u>

The SDS accounts for 1977/78 were audited by 6 [REDACTED], F3 Branch, on 26.4.78 and found correct.

(ii) 1978/79 budget £11,200

Details of expenditure incurred during the first nine months of the current financial year:

Rent	£5,995.13
Gas & Electricity	390.53
Telephone	446.88
Rates	430.43
Operational Expenses	1,082.95
	<u>£8,345.92</u>

It is anticipated that expenditure for the final quarter of this financial year will be met without the need to seek supplementary funds. However, unlike previous years, the possibility of a surplus is felt unlikely due to inflation and unavoidable additional operation expenses.

[REDACTED]

(iii) 1979/80 budget

Only stringent supervision of expenditure has enabled the Squad to keep within the approved budget. The incredibly low average rent for 'Cover Flats' stands in the region of £11 a week, HQ flats continue to be obtained at nominal rents and without restrictions of leases or other monetary obligations, and operational expenditure is limited to an absolute minimum. However, despite such supervision it will not be possible to counter the effects of inflation during the coming financial year and, for this reason, it is felt that the projected budgetary figure for 1979/80 should be £12,880, an increase of 15% over the current budget. It must be noted however that two extra items of expenditure have been incurred this year, and will be recurring charges:

- (a) The hire of two GPO 'London Pagers' @ £84 p.a. = £168  
(These have been introduced to fill a considerable gap in the communication system between supervisory staff and field officers. They are not available through official channels).
- (b) Membership of the Automobile Association  
@ £14 per officer p.a. = £168  
(This was found to be a sensible economic measure in view of the high expense involved in calling out garages in the event of a breakdown. It was directed that this sum should be paid for from 'Operational Expenses').

(iv) In former years, the anticipated budget has normally been the previous year's sum plus a percentage increase to allow for inflation, and by and large this formula has proved to be accurate in that the SDS has not overdrawn its account. Unfortunately there has always been a 'grey' area in the financing of the SDS operation which relates to expenses necessarily incurred by the field officers in the course

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

of their duties, and reference is made specifically to the subscriptions they pay for membership of the various political groups to which they belong, donations they are obliged to make and to the purchase of various political pamphlets, periodicals etc. Previously these sums have been repayed by way of 'Incidentals', there being no other appropriate heading under which to claim them. However, over the last 12/18 months considerable strictures have been placed upon the payment of incidental expenditure, and there can be no doubt that membership fees, the purchase of left-wing propaganda etc does not constitute incidental expenditure. Detailed below is a breakdown of these expenses on an average weekly basis per officer:-

<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Subscriptions/other	
dues	£2.15
Publications/paper	
sales/Books	£1.65
Miscellaneous expenses	
regularly incurred	
re 'Cover flats'	£1.90
Frequent miscellaneous	
levies	70
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>£6.40</u>

In the circumstances, it is felt that this expenditure is part and parcel of the sum required to finance this operation, and should therefore be added to the budgetary requirement for the year 1979/80. Assessed on the above figures, it is therefore proposed that an additional £4,000 be approved to rectify this anomaly, thus making a total projected budgetary figure of £16,880 for the financial year 1979/80.

9. PUBLIC ORDER 1979/80

(i) Although the bulk of this report is taken up with a review of the past year's activities of the Special Demonstration Squad, its primary objective is to predict the activities of the various extremist organisations present in the Metropolis and whether or not those activities will present a serious threat to public order: for if there is a threat then the SDS will be required to provide their specialised knowledge.

(ii) 1979 unfortunately has all the ingredients for a year of unrest on the political front. The Government's economic strategy appears to have suffered considerably as a result of its failure to maintain a pay policy, with the inevitable consequence that militant trade unions have used their power to conduct damaging strikes in key industries. The collapse of capitalism is the cornerstone of Marxist philosophy, and the left-wing elements will do their utmost to encourage this collapse.

(iii) A General Election was anticipated in Autumn 1978, but did not take place: this Election must take place in 1979. The National Front has already indicated its intention of fielding some 300 candidates: the left-wing will oppose them at every opportunity. If a Conservative Government is returned, there can be no doubt that they will take steps to curb the power of the Trade Union movement particularly in relation to strikes and picketing: the left-wing will adopt whatever tactics it finds expedient to oppose such moves. If a Labour Government is returned, it is highly likely that they will propose similar measures: left-wing reaction will be the same.

(iv) The 'Irish Question' remains unanswered and the Provisional IRA has already indicated its intentions of attacking economic targets in the United Kingdom. It would be an unusual year if other terrorist groups did not choose to indicate their presence in London by some outward show of violence.

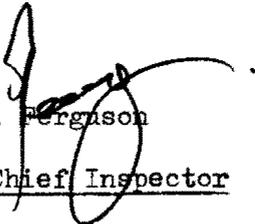


(v) These are but some of the major problems; Anarchists, anti-nuclear demonstrators, members of the Anti-Nazi League, Maoists and other 'Revolutionary' groups will all wish to register their presence by some form of 'direct action'.

(vi) First hand knowledge and up-to-date intelligence of their intentions is a sine qua non for the successful policing of London, and it is to that end that the SDS should be directed during the forthcoming year.

10. CONCLUSION

1978 was a difficult year for the Metropolitan Police in the public order arena, whether it was in connection with race relations or trade disputes, political demonstrations or football matches, and 1979 promises to present similar problems, all of which will make extraordinary demands on the Force. Successful policing during such times has always depended upon leadership, skilful deployment of manpower resources, commonsense and knowledge of the intentions of those involved. The first three are accepted parts of the police armoury, the fourth can only be obtained in difficult, dirty and sometimes dangerous circumstances. The Special Demonstration Squad was formed for this purpose, and its continued activity will undoubtedly prove to be of immense value in the forthcoming months.



M. Ferguson

Detective Chief Inspector



Special Branch

MEMORANDUM

31st January 1979

Chief Superintendent 'S' Squad

Special Demonstration Squad Transport

1. The authorised complement for the SDS Fleet remains at fourteen and, for the majority of 1978, this allocation was fully utilised. During the year five vehicles were replaced - four because further expenditure could not be economically justified and one for [redacted] - and four - including [7] one supplied by 'B' Department - were obtained for officers entering the field.

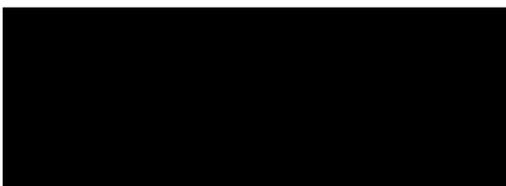
2. Submitted with this report is a record of vehicles used during 1978, together with a breakdown of the operational costs for the final quarter of the 1977/78 financial year and the first three quarters of the current financial year. These figures, compared with the returns for similar periods the year before, show an understandable increase when considered with the Fleet changes and the charges for labour and parts which continue to escalate.

3. It is, perhaps, pertinent to mention that for operational reasons SDS vehicles continue to be purchased from the lower end of the used car market and are, therefore, normally with high mileage and between 7 and 10 years old. Not surprisingly, this type of vehicle is more susceptible to mechanical and structural failures and, consequently, there are times when major repairs are needed to ensure compliance with the law, operational reliability and an above minimum standard of safety. Notwithstanding these costly hazards, the average cost per mile during the last nine months under review was a mere 7.9p.

4. All action with regard to purchase and disposal of SDS vehicles continues to be taken after consultation with 'T' Branch [redacted] and [8] G9 Branch [redacted]. Commander 'B10' is kept aware of such transactions. [8]

[8A] [redacted]  
Signature

A B McIntosh  
Detective Inspector



DETAILS OF SDS FLEET AND OPERATIONAL COSTS FOR THE PERIOD 1.1.78 - 31.12.78

9

MYLEAGE RUN	FUEL COSTS	RUNNING COSTS	TOTAL COSTS
13,298	322.21	418.36	740.57
5,388	186.31	397.87	584.18
650	39.21	82.46	121.67
3,019	101.15	272.22	376.67
5,316	159.45	125.71	285.16
901	33.67	4.10	37.77
6,414	185.62	145.53	331.15
7,263*	268.48	772.63	1,041.11
1,274	49.07	29.79	78.86
264	5.50	0.35	5.85
8,462	204.92	667.39	872.31
18,300*	775.59	731.71	1,507.30
4,428	150.04	394.62	544.66
19,960*	532.31	795.68	1,327.99
12,640	334.02	348.28	682.30
2,367	71.42	143.55	214.97
2,469	109.76	223.12	332.88

...../..... Continued

DETAILS OF SDS FLEET AND OPERATIONAL COSTS FOR THE PERIOD 1.1.78 - 31.12.78 Cont'd

9

MILEAGE RUN	FUEL COSTS	RUNNING COSTS	TOTAL COSTS
8,677	281.90	364.40	646.30
9,040	218.83	280.22	499.05
7,988	284.99	430.81	715.80
138,178	£4,317.75	£6,628.80	£10,946.55

2

DETAILS OF SDS FLEET AND OPERATIONAL COSTS FOR THE PERIOD 1.1.78 - 31.3.78

MILFAGE RUN	FUEL COSTS	RUNNING COSTS	TOTAL COSTS
2,942	85.89	26.79	112.68
1,912	75.15	31.53	106.68
2,398	74.80	82.25	157.05
2,138	78.66	106.77	185.43
2,711	100.71	53.88	154.59
2,161	62.92	74.36	137.28
5,100*	201.44	75.93	280.37
4,092	159.63	88.96	248.59
6,700	192.23	225.28	417.51
1,950	54.93	120.73	175.66
328	9.00	50.00	59.00
1,003	35.44	-	35.44
2,907	95.17	52.15	147.62
651	15.70	9.55	25.25
2,000	79.14	80.92	160.06
39,296	£1,324.11	£1,079.10	£2,403.21