

59A
Our reference:
588/UNREG/694



Sir James Waddell CB
Deputy Under-Secretary of State
Home Office
Whitehall
London SW1

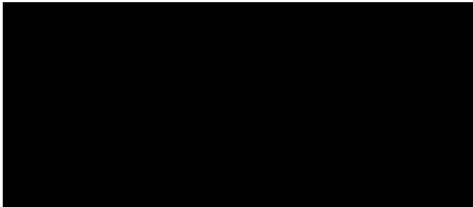
Your reference:
QPE 66 1/8/5

22 March 1974

C P J WOODS ESQ CBE

Dear Sir James

1. I am writing in reply to Home Office letter of 9 April 1973 from Mr E D Wright which gave us the necessary authority to maintain certain special payments to cover the activities of one of the squads of Special Branch.
2. I would now seek authority for the continuation of these activities for a further year.
3. With the number of bombing incidents that have occurred in recent months in this country, I need hardly emphasise how important it is at the present time for Special Branch to be as well informed as possible of the activities of the diverse ultra extremist organisations. In this respect you will, I know, be reassured to know that greater attention has been paid over the past twelve months to the infiltration of 

4. In the field of public order the activities of both right and left wing extremist organisations have proved by and large to be somewhat less troublesome over the period under review than in previous years. There was certainly a lessening in the promotion of pre-determined violent confrontation with the police who are seen from many quarters as the defenders of the Establishment, and I believe this was in part measure due to the accurate, well-assessed reports emanating from the Squad. These enabled uniformed Divisional Commanders to apply adequate strength in numbers to containing potentially violent situations without any show of over-reaction which can inflame militant passions at times.
5. The Commissioner and I have continued to take a close personal interest in the activities of the Squad and I would stress that every officer involved understands that maintenance of the strictest security remains paramount. Every practical step is taken by close supervision and intelligent anticipation to prevent exposure and no complacency is permitted.
6. In regard to this vital issue of security, the acquisition mid-way through the year of a second headquarters flat has undoubtedly been of inestimable value. Additionally, the changed method of transport, whereby older vehicles of differing manufacture have been purchased for the exclusive use of each field officer as opposed to the previous renting of three/four hire cars, has also proved useful, not only from a security aspect but also for operational mobility. On this latter note it should be mentioned that the overall cost of running a fleet of thirteen cars has proved no more expensive than the hire cars previously used.



7. The numerical strength of the Squad has been increased by one officer during the past year; this addition was considered necessary to provide an improvement in the day-to-day supervision and welfare of the officers as well as the transport arrangements in the field.

8. As your correspondence shows, the sum of £6,500 was approved to meet the Squad's commitments for the period 1 April 1973 to 31 March 1974. I can say that a surplus of approximately £900 can be anticipated on the latter date, principally because it was not possible to acquire the second HQ flat until half-way through the year. Next year we shall have the second flat in operation for the whole year, and the Receiver agrees that we should ask for £7500, taking account of inflation. You can be assured that no inessential expenditure will be incurred.

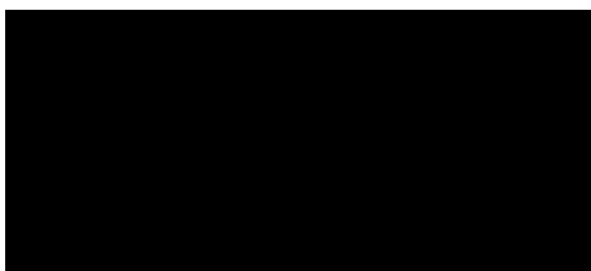
9. I would therefore be grateful if formal approval can be given to this Squad continuing its work under existing conditions subject to review for another twelve months.

Yours sincerely

C.P.J. WOODS

Assistant Commissioner

LLA.



Your Ref: QPB 66 1/8/5
Our Ref: 588/UNREG/694

Sir James Waddell, CB.,
Deputy Under Secretary of State,
Home Office,
Whitehall,
London,
SW1A 2AP.

18th February, 1975

Dear

In April 1974 you gave us covering authority to maintain certain special payments to cover the activities of a special Squad within Special Branch for a further year. We are now, in fact in the seventh year of this particular Squad's operations.

I would now seek authority for the continuation of these activities. In operational terms the strength of the Squad remains at the same level as last year, but re-organisation of Special Branch administration has resulted in increased involvement of senior officers in the supervision of the Squad. This point is amplified later in this letter.

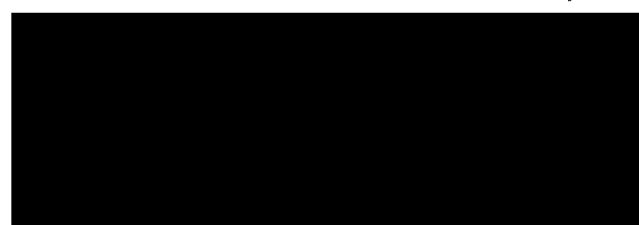
Although the level of bombing incidents has recently abated, you will realise how necessary we still regard the Special Branch role to be as well informed as possible of the activities of those diverse ultra-extremist organisations who are disposed to use violence. Despite some setbacks in the Irish field, [REDACTED]

2

[REDACTED] penetration of selected extremist organisations has been maintained to a most satisfying degree.

In the general field of public order the provision of accurate and well assessed reports emanating from the special Squad have enabled Divisional Commanders to apply adequate police strength in a style to contain such political demonstrations and minimise the possibility of over-reaction which could inflame militant passions.

The Commissioner and I have continued to take a close personal interest in the activities of the Squad and I would stress, as I did last year, that each officer involved understands that the maintenance of the strictest security remains paramount. Every practical step is taken by close supervision and intelligent anticipation to prevent exposure and no complacency is permitted. To this end the operations of the special Squad were placed in July 1974 directly under the day-to-day supervision



CONT'D/...

of a Chief Superintendent and Superintendent who were re-allocated from other tasks in order to provide a further degree of control.

The two headquarter flats for which you gave financial approval last year have been in constant use throughout the year. This accommodation has greatly increased the security of necessary meetings of members of the squad and of the visits by supervisory officers. In addition, operational officers have been required to make increasing use of their cover addresses and the costs of these have been subject to inflation over the past year. On the grounds of security it is intended to replace one of the headquarter flats within the next two to three months. Both flats are at present subject to an artificially low, controlled rent, and it is unlikely that the replacement flat will be at a comparable figure.

The continued use of secondhand cars and vans by operational officers has been a tremendous asset and, while it is readily accepted that no complete comparison can be made against the costs of the previous system of hiring vehicles, it seems reasonable to claim that on the grounds of operational efficiency and security alone any minimal increase in costs is well worth while.

As your correspondence will show, the sum of £7,500 was approved to meet the Squad's commitments for the period 1st April 1974 to 31st March 1975. It is anticipated that by careful husbandry approximately £500 of this will remain at the end of the year. Budgetary forecast to cover possible inflation during the next fiscal year is difficult, but bearing in mind the proposed change of headquarter flat and anticipated rises in the charges for rates and services, the Receiver agreed that we should ask for a budget of £8,600 for 1975/6. You can be assured that no inessential expenditure will be incurred.

I would therefore be grateful if formal approval could be given to the Squad continuing its work under existing conditions, subject to review, for a further twelve months.

Yours

C. P. J. WOODS

C. P. J. WOODS
Assistant Commissioner (Crime)

DRAFT LETTER TO
SIR JAMES WADDELL CB

10A
Our reference:
588/UNREG/694

Your reference:
QPE 66 1/8/5

Dear Sir James

1. In April 1974 you gave us covering authority to maintain certain special payments to cover the activities of a special Squad within Special Branch for a further year. We are now, in fact, in the seventh year of this particular Squad's operations.
2. I would now seek authority for the continuation of these activities. In operational terms the strength of the Squad remains at the same level as last year, but re-organisation of Special Branch administration has resulted in increased involvement of senior officers in the supervision of the Squad. This point is amplified later in this letter.
3. Although the level of bombing incidents has recently abated, you will realise how necessary we still regard the Special Branch role to be as well informed as possible of the activities of those diverse ultra-extremist organisations who are disposed to use violence. Despite some setbacks in the Irish field, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] penetration of selected extremist organisations has been maintained to a most satisfying degree.
4. In the general field of public order the provision of accurate and well assessed reports emanating from the special Squad have enabled Divisional Commanders to apply adequate police strength in a style to

contain such political demonstrations and minimise the possibility of over-reaction which could inflame militant passions.

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6. The two headquarter flats for which you gave financial approval last year have been in constant use throughout the year. This accommodation has greatly increased the security of necessary meetings of members of the Squad and of the visits by supervisory officers. In addition, operational officers have been required to make increasing use of their cover addresses and the costs of these have been subject to inflation over the past year. On the grounds of security it is intended to replace one of the headquarter flats within the next two to three months. Both flats are at present subject to an artificially low, controlled rent, and it is unlikely that the replacement flat will be at a comparable figure.

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9. I would therefore be grateful if formal approval could be given to the Squad continuing its work under existing conditions, subject to review, for a further twelve months.

Yours sincerely

Assistant Commissioner

6A

MEMORANDUM

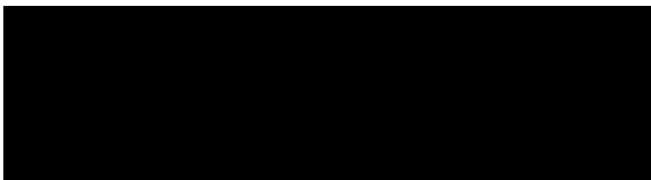
Commander Operations

1. The numerical strength of the Special Demonstration Squad (SDS) remains at seventeen officers, comprising one Chief Inspector, three Inspectors, five Sergeants and eight Constables. Twelve officers are operational, and the remaining five are engaged on supervisory and administrative duties. Since July 1974, the SDS has been a part of the newly created 'S' Squad which was formed to co-ordinate the various technical and support functions performed by Special Branch, and as such, now has the added benefit of a Chief Superintendent and Superintendent, thus improving still further the degree of supervision which is so necessary in this delicate field of operations. A further advantage of being a part of 'S' Squad is that there can be greater co-operation between the SDS and other sections of the Squad, leading to greater efficiency against common targets.

2. In the seventh year of its existence the purpose of the SDS remains fundamentally unchanged - the penetration of extremist groups to the left of the Communist Party of Great Britain which are likely to foment problems in the field of public order. To perform this function successfully has meant coverage of the majority of the 'ultra-left' and pro-Irish organisations in this country, and in the process of providing intelligence concerning demonstrations and meetings, a considerable quantity of information has been gleaned for the Security Service.

3. Coverage

Extremist organisations are constantly changing their names, both as a result of internal dissensions and a desire to attract new members, although their aims usually remain the same. Several organisations have ceased to function during the past year, though new ones have taken their place. Organisations currently penetrated by the SDS are:

4	)	Pro-Irish organisations
5			
5A			
5B			
International Socialists)	Trotskyist groups	
International Marxist Group)		
Workers Revolutionary Party)		

1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 2000; 284: 2689-2694.

Revolutionary Communist Group
Freedom Collective

Lower Down
Pavement
Claimants Union

Battersea Redevelopment Action Group
Stop All Racist Tours
(formerly Stop the Apartheid Rugby Tour)

Fight On
Big Flame
Liberation
10D [REDACTED]
Shrewsbury Two Defence Committee
10F [REDACTED]

10D

10F

11. [REDACTED]. As the above list indicates, penetration of the Irish organisations [REDACTED]

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5. The distribution of information obtained by the SDS to the Security Service has been further safeguarded by a recent decision to channel all such reports through a single unit, where a caveat is imposed forbidding further enquiry without reference to the SDS, thereby eliminating any possible disclosure of the source. Similar precautions have been taken with regard to information passed to other police departments.

6. Personnel

Once again a number of operational officers have received praise for their efforts from senior officers and the Security Service. In addition, six constables have gained the tangible satisfaction of either being promoted to sergeant, or passing the selection board for that rank.

7. An active promotion class scheme, conducted under difficult circumstances, produced highly satisfactory results in a year when few officers passed the qualifying examination. Encouraged by these results, a similar programme has been planned for this year for both the sergeants' and inspectors' examinations.

8. It is anticipated that three operational officers will return to normal duties during the course of the next twelve months, having completed their tours of duty, and a number of volunteers have been selected to take their place. It is worth mentioning in this regard, that although the initial injection of an officer into the extremist field presents great problems, these pale into insignificance compared to those encountered ensuring his safe, and sometimes speedy, withdrawal, as it is vitally necessary that he should not be recognised in a police context by his former 'comrades' for a considerable length of time, if indeed at all, and the sympathy and co-operation of senior Special Branch officers in arranging convenient postings for such officers is gratefully acknowledged.

9. Security

Security remains, as ever, the prime consideration in all SDS activities. Undoubtedly, the experience of the past seven years has been invaluable in anticipating such problems in advance, but the finest safeguards continue to be strong supervision and a constant sense of self preservation which is instilled into all operational officers.

10. Equally valuable in this respect are the regular meetings of SDS members at one or other of the headquarter flats. As well as ensuring an adequate level of supervision, and the opportunity to discuss and identify common problems and future targets, they provide an opportunity to assess the behaviour of operational officers, so that any pressures, operational or otherwise can be quickly diagnosed and remedied.

11. As has been frequently stated in previous annual reviews, absolute security cannot be achieved if operational officers are to progress in their police careers and have any form of home life, but the strongest efforts are made to ensure that nobody is needlessly compromised. During the past year, further steps have been taken to limit operational officers' visits to CO to an absolute minimum, and involvement with other police officers is discouraged. Such stringent regulations on the lives of these officers can, of course, only be endured for a certain length of time, and recompense for such hardships is the responsibility of the supervising officers.

12. Accommodation

There are two headquarter flats in constant use, providing secure accommodation for the regular meetings referred to earlier in this report. Having two such flats obviously makes for greater security, and helps to avoid any evidence of system which could lead to suspicion. It is intended that the location of one of these flats should be changed during the next two to three months.

13. Operational officers have had to make greater use of their cover flats during the past year, as they become more involved within their organisations. Although they are not intended for long periods of occupation, and to protect their cover are by no means luxurious or in good residential districts, great difficulty has been found in obtaining single, furnished accommodation at a reasonable rent. This is covered more fully in the section dealing with SDS finances.

14. Transport

The continued use of second hand cars and vans by operational officers has proved to be a tremendous asset to the Squad's efficiency, and from this point of view alone is far better than the previous system of hiring. A separate report dealing with all aspects of SDS transport is submitted on Secret file TR 14/73/10.

15. Finance

With careful management, expenditure for the financial year 1974/75 has been contained within the budget of £7,500. A breakdown of figures for the first three quarters of the year reveals the following picture:-

	£
Rent	4,228.47
Electricity & gas	89.75
Telephone	237.18
Rates	302.38
Operational expenses	364.28
	<hr/>
TOTAL	£5,222.06
	<hr/>

Anticipated outgoings for the final quarter should not exceed £1,800, hence the total figure for the full financial year should stand at about £7,000, a saving of approximately £500.

16. The effect of rampant inflation will not be truly felt until the financial year 1975/76, and with details of many price increases yet to be announced, or to bring their weight to bear on the market, any budgetary projection for that period must involve a degree of educated guesswork. It can be anticipated that at least half of the field officers will be required to obtain fresh 'cover' flats in the course of the year, either through the turn-around of manpower or as dictated by operational necessity. Recent experience has shown both a scarcity of the type of accommodation required, and a 30% increase in rentals. This being the case, we can expect to pay about £630 more for 'cover' accommodation in the coming financial year. Telephone bills, subject to an anticipated 25% increase, will involve a further £84, and electricity and gas will probably rise by 20% overall costing a further £10. The calculation of this last item has been based on current expenditure rather than that of the year as a whole, since for the first three months we were involved in unusually heavy bills for heating a headquarters flat which has now been vacated. Local authority rates on headquarters flats will possibly rise by some 70% requiring a further £196 for the year. Based on present commitments, therefore, a further £920 would be required to continue operations for the year 1975/76, necessitating a budget of £8,000.

17. As mentioned in paragraph 12, however, it is intended, on grounds of security, to replace one of the headquarters flats within the next two or three months. Both flats at present in use are subject to artificially low controlled rents, and we shall be fortunate indeed to obtain a replacement at a comparable figure. Whilst every effort is being directed towards achieving that object, force of circumstances could drive us back to the 1973/74 situation where one flat alone was costing £100 a month, plus a considerable sum for heating. Should this occur, a further £600 would be required in the course of a year, raising projected expenditure to some £8,600.

18. All factors considered, it might be regarded wise to seek approval for the higher figure of £8,600 with the not altogether groundless hope that a saving can be made in the order of that achieved in the year under review.

19. The annual audit of SDS accounts was carried out on 6 June 1974 by [REDACTED] F2 Branch, who expressed satisfaction with the manner in which the books were kept.

20. Review

The most traumatic event of the year was the 'anti-fascist' demonstration on 15 June 1974, which culminated in the death of Kevin GATELY. Having lacked a sufficiently interesting, broad fronted target for some time, the 'ultra-left' eventually decided to combat the re-emerging spectre of fascism, as exemplified by the National Front. The June demonstration provided the opportunity, and urged on by the International Marxist Group and the Communist Party of England (Marxist-Leninist), a violent confrontation between demonstrators and police occurred, with many of those present, armed with large pieces of timber in the shape of flag poles and banners, charging the police lines in an effort to stop the National Front holding their meeting in Conway Hall. Fortunately, the SDS gave forewarning of both the size of the demonstration and the possible disorder which might occur. GATELY's death introduced a note of harsh reality; so that subsequent demonstrations, both in the Metropolitan Police District and at Leicester, did not achieve the aims of the militant minority.

21. The biggest demonstrations of the year were those organised by the students in their endeavour to gain publicity for their national grants campaign. Between 15/20,000 students took to the streets on both demonstrations, and despite extremist representation there was no disorder.

22. The year opened with the occupation of Centre Point in mid-January by squatters, and resulted in the arrest of nineteen people. During the year further occupations took place underlining the problems posed by this amorphous section of the community. Although this is a fringe area of SDS involvement experience shows that this field is often the nursery of extremists, who having gained experience, soon leave to join other, more militant organisations.

23. The general elections marked an upsurge in the fortunes of the National Front, and in addition to the Red Lion Square demonstration mentioned earlier, led to the disruption of their meetings by the 'ultra-left' throughout London, and in many cases to acts of criminal damage and public disorder. Again, SDS intelligence, channelled through 'A' Department, helped to prevent any large-scale outbreaks of violence.

24. With this experience, police were able to thwart the militancy of the 'ultra-left' when 1,000 National Front supporters marched through London on 7 September 1974. The rival organisations were kept well apart, and no disorder took place, although it was noticeable that supporters of the International Marxist Group and the Communist Party of England (Marxist-Leninist) were ready to cause disruption at Hyde Park had the National Front arrived.

25. The Stop the Apartheid Rugby Tour failed to gather any real momentum in its efforts to stop the British Lions' tour of South Africa, but the fact that the organisation has now restyled itself Stop All Racist Tours shows that further trouble can be anticipated when the opportunity arises.

26. On 27 October 1974 the Troops Out Movement, following a fairly extensive national campaign, attracted 6,500 supporters and sympathisers to a rally in central London, which might have been even bigger had a greater measure of support been forthcoming from the Irish organisations and the Irish community. Escalation in the bombing campaign, with the fear of a Protestant backlash, and the introduction of recent legislation, with the departure, enforced or otherwise, of the principal organisers of Irish groupings, has made the Irish reluctant to take part in overt political activity. The Troops Out Movement, which has attracted support from most 'ultra-left' organisations, now finds itself the mouthpiece of protest against the activities of the British Government in Ireland.

27. As in previous years, the Trotskyists have proved to be the largest, and one of the most troublesome, groupings in the extremist field. The numerically small, but highly militant, International Marxist Group, has attempted to intervene in most demonstrations. It has remained a basically student-orientated group, despite constant attempts to broaden its base. The stronger, albeit less militant International Socialists, have steadily moved towards creating a more working-class industrial image, in an attempt to gain more support in the Trade Unions, where they wield considerably less power than the Communist Party of Great Britain. Supporters of the International Socialists have played a prominent part in all demonstrations dealing with industrial matters, and will undoubtedly continue to do so.

28. The Workers Revolutionary Party, heartened by its recruiting campaigns during both recent general elections, and by its growing financial support, will clearly be in the van of industrial unrest, but recent internal schisms within the Central Committee may well curtail its ambitions. Being a highly disciplined organisation, expecting immediate obedience from its members, it has not so far caused any undue problems in the field of public order.

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33. Future Activities

Obviously the growing economic problems in this country will be seized upon by the 'ultra-left' as an ideal opportunity for them to further their skills at disruption, by strikes and anti-government demonstrations, and any attempt to legislate for more moderate wage increases, or indeed any form of wage restraint, will unite all sections of the militant left, including the Communist Party of Great Britain.

34. Similarly, the current situation will probably prompt an upsurge in the fortunes of the extreme right wing in general, and the National Front in particular. Bearing in mind the clashes of the past year, there will inevitably be a large degree of co-operation between 'ultra-left' groups to combat 'fascism', with all its inherent problems for police. Added to this is a long feared possibility of racial violence, since large numbers of unemployed plus the current resurgence of right wing extremism, can only serve to fan the flames of race hatred.

35. Fortunately for police, the 'ultra-left' has been somewhat inept at establishing a successful rapport with the coloured community, and amongst the coloured people themselves there is much disunity caused by both political and ethnic reasons. Should these differences be overcome, a serious threat to public order could emerge, and events in this field are being closely watched by the SDS.

36. Events abroad will continue to attract the attention of the extremists in this country, and there will be further demonstrations by such organisations as

16

[REDACTED]

37. As mentioned previously, there have been few Irish demonstrations in recent months. With the dwindling membership of Sinn Fein and Clann na h'Eireann, there would seem to be little immediate prospect of public order problems, though if the situation quietens, and the recent legislation is allowed to lapse, the Irish extremists will probably regain their courage and take to the streets again in an attempt to secure their demands for Ireland.

[17]

38. [REDACTED]

[18]

39. The difficulties of penetrating, and having done so, remaining within extremist organisations, are steadily increasing. Such problems have already been touched on in connection with [REDACTED], but they are not alone in imposing stringent security measures to keep out the unwanted. Most extremist organisations operate on a cell structure, insist on a probationary period during which the potential recruit is carefully screened and interrogated as to his reasons for joining and political beliefs, and once having been accepted the level of commitment demanded is extremely high. These measures are aimed not only at discovering police or security service 'spies', but are also used to keep out the fascists, the stalinists and other such revisionists. Despite these mounting problems, the SDS field officers, always conscious of the need for security, and strongly supervised, have constantly supplied valuable information on all aspects of public order during the past year, and undoubtedly will continue to do so.

SB
4.2.75

D. J. Kneale
Derek J Kneale
Chief Inspector

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BREAKDOWN OF RUNNING COSTS FOR S.D.S. VEHICLES FROM 1.4.1974 to 31.12.1974

19

Fleet No.	Index No.	Make	Officer	Mileage	Repairs	Fuel	Total Cost
				7254	£40.91	£137.18	£178.09
				1914	£50.46	£27.30	£77.76
				6695	£58.82	£98.16	£156.98
				8841	£67.15	£159.45	£226.60
				7507	£53.43	£132.55	£185.98
				7921	£265.88	£162.34	£428.22
				2180	£2.05	£63.65	£65.70
				2953	£15.42	£93.44	£108.86
				8639	£107.35	£237.60	£344.95
				12167	£246.65	£329.45	£576.10
				1392	£24.42	£30.78	£55.20
				4633	£43.61	£60.26	£103.87
				6441	£73.55	£149.10	£222.65
				2745	£79.57	£76.43	£156.00
				6955	£94.19	£196.29	£290.48
				4065	£63.26	£102.11	£165.37
					£1,286.72	£2,056.09	£3,342.81

3. The cost of Road Fund Licences, where renewed within the period, is included under "Repairs". Insurance is dealt with by G.9 Branch, direct, and no figures are available in Special Branch.

63

B. No. 1 (Plal.,

METROPOLITAN POLICE

SPECIAL BRANCH

Special Report }

.....6th day of.....February,.....1975.

SUBJECT

S.D.S.

Transport

reference to Papers

588/UNREG/694

14/73/10

1. The Special Demonstration Squad has continued for the past twelve months to operate 13 vehicles, 12 in the hands of operational officers and one for supervision. Authority is currently being sought from Home Office for the purchase of a further vehicle for use by supervisory officers.
2. In the course of the year four vehicles have been replaced, three for operational reasons and one through depreciation. The total outlay involved was £1,200, one vehicle being obtained through the good offices of 'B' Department at no cost to the squad.
3. It is to be anticipated that during the forthcoming year three or four field officers will be replaced and fresh vehicles will be required for their successors.
4. No reliable forecast can be made with regard to likely expenditure in 1975/76 for reasons of depreciation. Service reports, for what they are worth, give no warning of the development of any major mechanical defects and it is to be hoped that changes in the fleet for non-operational reasons will be minimal. It must be borne in mind, however, that in the current market a reasonable replacement vehicle is likely to cost in the region of £500 and, due to the requirement of disposing of replaced vehicles by auction, little of the original capital can be recovered.
5. Attached to this report is a breakdown of running costs of S.D.S. vehicles for the first three quarters of the financial year 1974/75.

20

G.T.M. Craft
Detective Inspector.