

File No.

588

/ UNREG. / 569A

Minute
Sheet No.

1

Sg memo.

DAC to see, please

Interlocking!!!

/A.

Commander 'Ops' to see, please

2

This visit by C.I. **HN294** and D.I. Brice was authorised by me. It is clear that Box 500 were merely putting out 'feelers' to see how we would re-act to their mounting an operation of the kind discussed. C.I. **HN294** was, quite rightly, non-committal and we shall no doubt receive a more direct approach should Box decide to go ahead.

1. Return papers to Ch. Supt. 'C'

S.B.

2.

ACC

1. You will wish to be aware of this initial move by MI5 to increase their intelligence coverage of the extreme left **HN294** especially because they will be entering the same political areas as those covered by SB's Special Demonstration Squad.

6

2. MI5 are, of course, fully entitled to adopt this policy, but I feel it will take them some time to become operationally effective. MI5 do, of course, receive copies of intelligence reports produced by the Special Demonstration Squad but they do not know the identities of officers or the precise areas in which they are working, and in this newly developing situation, subject to any comment you may wish to make, I shall ensure that senior officers here are even more protective of the work of the SDS to ensure that any operation by MI5 which goes wrong does not expose police officers to personal risk or potential embarrassment. In particular, I propose to limit further the opportunities MI5 may have for personal contact with supervising officers in charge of the SDS.

3. MI5 have been completely frank in warning us of what is proposed and we cannot object. I shall, however, have developments closely watched and alert you if our interests are threatened.

4. On the specific point made by MI5 at 'B' of paragraph 3 concerning

A |

the likely attitude of police if MI5 ⁶ came into conflict with the law, I shall of course be in no position to make offers of support or promises of indemnity.

SB
30.1.74

DAC

3

DAC SB

A of your minute 2 is correct.
we will, of course, judge each
situation on its merits & be as helpful
as the accountability of the Mobile Force
permits

Chief Superintendent

5/1/74

5/1/74
AC

Chief C. S. (Ch. Com Ops) ⁴ 5/2/74

To note Acc's minute at 1/3, together
with my comments at 1/2. Be aware
that my policy at 3 of 1/2 is presented as
a prudent precaution.

SB 1/1/74

5.

1. PA in Room 892

SB
5/2/74

Ch. Supt

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MEMORANDUM

Commander Operations

1. On Wednesday 9th January 1974 I received an invitation to call in at Box 500 premises in Great Marlborough St., W.1, to "discuss recent developments of mutual interest" and at 11.30 am on 10th January, 1974, accompanied with D.I. Brice, I did.

2. Present were [6] and [6], Box 500, D.I. Brice and myself. [6] said that a new Box 500 section 'F.6' had been formed to be responsible for [6] intelligence from [6] the field of extremist politics to the left of the Communist Party i.e. trotskyists, maoists, anarchists, the alternative society etc. and whilst he would be grateful for [6] specific support [6] we could provide him with, he was at this time more concerned with acquainting me of a recent Box 500 decision concerning intelligence gathering in the above mentioned field.

3. [6] [6] anticipated [6] that if the project was successful it might entail assisting the extremists to some degree in the furtherance of their plans. The impression I had was, that [6] had been authorised to [6] make a 'feasibility study' of the scheme and he was endeavouring to ascertain (a) whether the experience of the S.D.S. would be of value and available to him in the setting-up of such a [6] (b) the likely attitude of police if [6] came into conflict with the law either as accessories to offences planned and executed by the extremists or in connection with the formation of [6]. [6]

4. It ought to be emphasised that [6] did not pose the questions as directly as I have stated them but raised them obliquely in the course of general conversation on the 'alternative society'.

[REDACTED]

(2)

5. My replies therefore were similarly indirect viz:

re (a) that I hoped that any advice we could give Box 500 - to assist their [REDACTED] [6] [REDACTED] would be freely available.

re (b) that S.D.S. officers were precluded by Home Office instructions from any action likely to invite an accusation of their being 'agents provocateurs' and Special Branch informants were similarly restricted.

6. I was not asked to, and needless to say I did not, commit the Branch to any specific attitude on the matter. It can be anticipated that if Box 500 decide to proceed with it an official approach will be made to the Branch for assistance.

7. My own view is that as it appears to represent a more positive approach by Box 500 towards intelligence gathering it is per se of great significance and it might, just possibly, be successful. In which case it could be in the Branch's interests to give it tacit support.

[5]

HN294

CO.SB
15.1.74

Chief Inspector.