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Special Branch

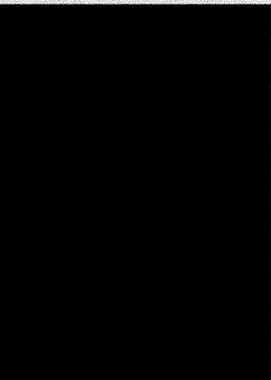
MEMORANDUM

15th October, 1976

1. The first of the informal twice yearly meetings between representatives of Box 500 and Special Branch took place in the Commissioner's Conference Room at New Scotland Yard on Monday 11th October 1976, between 1505 and 1700 hours. The following were present under the Chairmanship of Commander R. Watts.

Box 500:

2



- Training Section
- P.L.S.
- P.L.S.
- P.L.S.
- F5
- F2
- F7
- F1

Special Branch:

Commander P. SAUNDERS

Chief Superintendents:

- J. WILSON
- R. WILSON
- R. BROWN
- M. DAVIES
- D. BICKNELL
- H. NICHOLLS

Superintendent:

TN0038

1

- Training Section

2. Commander Watts opened the proceedings by reminding delegates how these meetings had come about, and then asked those present to explain briefly, their responsibilities within their respective Services. This having been done, he dwelt briefly on the role of Special Branch in carrying out Box 500 enquiries and made reference to the fact that, increasing manpower requirements due to protection and public order commitments, had reduced our capacity to carry these out since the "October Revolution" of 1968.

3. Chief Superintendent R. Wilson, then spoke about manpower



difficulties on his Squad - theoretically 60 officers usually reduced by other commitments to about 30 at any one given time. Despite this, however, between 250-300 enquiries were completed for Box 500 every month. He stated however, that he was bound by the primary objectives of the Police Service, to give priority to enquiries which related to matters of public order. Mr. Watts emphasised this point by explaining that Special Branch were responsible for something in the region of 600 to 700 pre-demonstration assessments every year for the information of the Uniform Branch.

4. [2] [redacted] said that he was sure all Box 500 representatives were quite happy with the excellent service currently provided by Met. Special Branch and that he personally found no difficulty since his priorities in the Anarchist/Trotskyist field were invariably the same as Special Branch.

5. There then followed some discussion on Box 500's need to fully identify applicants to join subversive organisations in view of their vetting responsibilities. There was general agreement that basic identification was the main need nowadays and that the days had passed of long involved reports.

6. Chief Superintendent Davies then spoke about the very heavy protection commitments which would face not only the Metropolitan, but all Special Branches in the first half of 1977. He explained that with the EEC meeting; the NATO Conferences; the Commonwealth Prime Ministers Conference and the Queens Jubilee, there would be a need for approximately 100 provincial officers to be loaned to Met. Special Branch just to cover protection arrangements. He asked Box 500 representatives therefore, if they would be prepared to cut back on the number of enquiries sent to Special Branch from about April to September. The Box representatives expressed willingness to assist in any way.

7. Commander Watts then turned to the subject of the build up of racial tension in the Brixton and Notting Hill areas, he stated that we were not sure of the potential for serious disorder, but were currently undertaking a study of the problem. A special section led by a DI and consisting of a Sergeant and a DC from 'E' Squad and a Sergeant and a DC from 'C' Squad had been set up for this purpose. The study would commence in the Brixton area and one of its most important aspects was to discover to what extent left-wing extremists were influencing the coloured population in this area.

8. [2] [redacted] said that Box 500 had no such special section at present, but there had been discussions on the subject. Presently the responsibility was split between F1 and F7 Branches and [redacted] [2] [redacted]'s section.

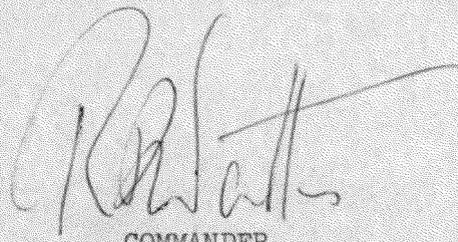
9. [2] [redacted] was asked by Chief Superintendent Brown if Box 500 were indexing names of National Front members. He stated that [redacted]



whilst they were not recording simple membership, they were always alert to subversive elements within such organisations and the matter was constantly under review.

10. Chief Superintendent Nicholls queried the procedure relating to the review of old action 'A' and was told by  that this was done every twelve months, but if there were any specific difficulties he would be pleased to look into them. [2]

11. Before closing the discussion it was agreed by both sides that the meeting had been most useful.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'R. Nicholls'.

COMMANDER

