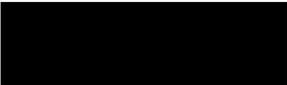




Special Branch
Annual Report

1977



SPECIAL BRANCH ANNUAL REPORT

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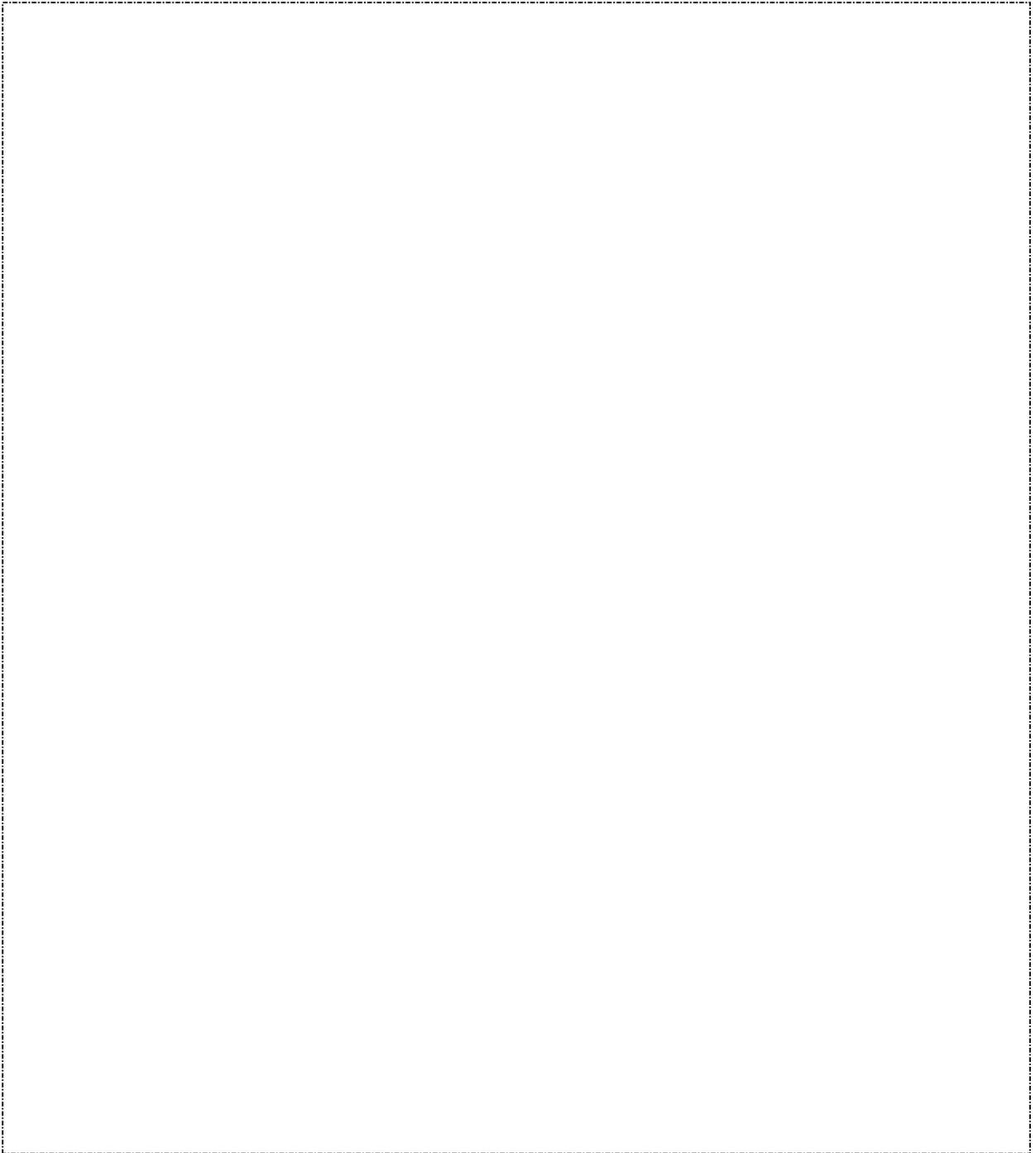
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ADMINISTRATION AND STATISTICS



PUBLIC ORDER

The internal threat to public order has come mainly from the organisations of the extreme left with the occasional incursion from

their opponents at the opposite end of the spectrum. Both factions are under close scrutiny by the Branch.

Particularly active in demonstrations have been supporters of the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) and the Communist Party of England (Marxist-Leninist) (CPE(M-L)). The SWP, which changed its name from the International Socialists at the start of the year, has been trying to recruit from the ranks of the unemployed and has organised several militant marches under the auspices of the Right to Work Campaign. The SWP has also made much political capital out of the anti-National Front campaign which brought about particularly violent clashes with police at Ducketts Common, N8, on 23 April and at Lewisham on 13 August. The main initiative for the physical attacks on the National Front (NF) has come from the SWP although the notion of a total ban on NF marches is widely supported by most sections of the Left. The Maoist CPE(M-L) have provided small but very violent contingents on anti-National Front marches; the bulk of their membership of about 100 persons is in East London and are a continuing source of trouble to police. It is important to note that attempts by the ultra-left to recruit from the various coloured communities in London have mainly been rebuffed; this was clearly illustrated during the Notting Hill Carnival in August when the SWP were forced to withdraw from the area because of the hostility displayed by certain elements in the crowd.

Whilst the extreme left campaigns against the Criminal Trespass Laws, the current regime in Chile, and hospital closures, have had little practical effect, they are in contrast to the massive publicity surrounding communist and Trotskyist involvement in the dispute at the Grunwick factory in Cricklewood, where a great deal of Special Branch effort was directed to the successful provision of forward intelligence.