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P. E. Brodie, O.B.E.

21st November, 1968

Dear

Prior to the demonstrations on 27th October, a group of Special Branch officers were specially employed in obtaining detailed information about the activities of members of extreme left-wing political factions grouped under the aegis of the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign.

The information which these officers gathered proved invaluable when the Police Operation Order for 27th October was being prepared.

The Commissioner is of opinion that this type of under-cover work by Special Branch officers should be continued.

The experience which we gained has enabled us to obtain an idea of the basic requirements which are necessary for a long-term operation of this kind involving the penetration in depth of these organisations.

The first requirement is a flat or office away from any Police building. This can be used as a meeting place for Special Branch officers who have been directed not to call at C.O. or any other Police premises and also as a place where they can prepare their reports and consult official publications, etc. This headquarters flat or office must not be used as an address by any of the other operational officers.

1 We are able to obtain premises in a block of flats in the West London area

The basic rent is £720 per annum but charges for electricity, telephone, rates and water rates will make the total cost about £900 per annum.

It is also necessary to rent seven small bedsitting room type flats for officers to use as cover addresses and for the receipt of mail. It is estimated that this would cost about £2,100 per annum. Furnishings would be required for the headquarters flat but these would not be expensive.

J. H. Waddell, Esq., C.B.,
Deputy Under-Secretary of State,
Home Office.

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In this letter I have only set out very brief details of our requirements but the total cost, it is thought, would be about £3,000 per annum. The Receiver has been consulted and he has no objection to the proposal from the point of view of finance but he has asked that you should be informed.

If you would like to discuss this matter in further detail, I should be delighted to come over and see you accompanied by Commander Ferguson Smith of Special Branch.

Yours sincerely,

P. E. BRODIE