



NEW SCOTLAND YARD
BROADWAY, LONDON, SW1H 0BG

R J Andrew Esq, CB
Deputy Under Secretary of State
Home Office
50 Queen Anne's Gate
LONDON
SW1H 9AT

Our reference:
588/UNREG/694 Pt III

Your reference:
QPE/66 1/8/5

23rd March, 1981

Dear *Mr Andrew*

In the absence of Gilbert Kelland on leave, I write seeking formal approval for the continuance of the Special Demonstration Squad within Special Branch.

Now in its thirteenth year of operation, the squad maintains its original objective of providing high quality information against which demonstrations may be policed effectively. The by-product of detailed security intelligence still makes a significant contribution towards the overall Security Service requirement.

As predicted, 1980 saw considerable activity by the ~~anti-~~ nuclear movement around the siting of power stations, the transportation of waste and Cruise Missile bases in the United Kingdom. SDS information proved of considerable value in this area, particularly in the prevention of serious disorder and damage to property in East Lothian. A great deal of attention was also paid to the inevitable clashes between adherents of the extreme left and right of the political spectrum and attempts by both sides to use racial tension for their own purposes.

Present indications are that 1981 will follow a similar pattern. The effects of campaigns over racial and employment aspects are already to be seen on the streets and plans are being laid for major demonstrations as the year progresses.

The resources of the SDS have been directed accordingly and, against a background of increasing awareness by revolutionary groups of police interest, careful attention is being paid by supervising officers to the security of the operation. Needless to say, the Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner (Crime) take a personal interest.

The budgetary figure of £19,400 for the financial year 1980/81 should cover all expenses but with little to spare. The Squad is run at

.... /

[REDACTED]

a minimum cost consistent with the requirements of security and it is therefore requested that a sum of £22,310 be approved for 1981/82, allowing for 15% inflation.

Yours sincerely

A

David Powis

A/Assistant Commissioner (Crime)

[REDACTED]

Special Demonstration Squad
Special Branch
New Scotland Yard
SW1H OBG

ANNUAL REPORT 1980

INTRODUCTION

1. The Special Demonstration Squad is about to enter the thirteenth year of its operations and, although the events which led to its formation have now passed into political history, the purpose of its existence remains unchanged. The objective has always been to provide high quality information to the Uniformed Branch, through 'A' Department, in order that demonstrations may be policed effectively. Security intelligence amassed is a valuable by-product and is of considerable use to the Police and to the Security Service. Sight is never lost, however, of the main objective and forward planning and staff placement are directed towards maintaining and, where possible, improving the service provided to the Metropolitan Police. This report will deal with the activities of the Special Demonstration Squad during the year ending 31st December 1980.

COVERAGE

2. The following organisations, whose members have brought themselves to notice in a public order context, have been penetrated by SDS officers directly or to a sufficient extent to enable monitoring of their more important activities.

Trotskyist

Socialist Workers Party

[B] [REDACTED]

Womens Voice

Right to Work Campaign

Engineers Charter Group

Spartacist League

[E] [REDACTED]

Revolutionary Marxist Tendency

East London Workers Against Racism

[REDACTED]

Marxist-Leninist

Revolutionary Communist League of Britain

[G]

[H]

British-Kampuchea Support Campaign

[I]

[J]

Pro-Irish

Troops Out Movement

[K]

Anarchist

Freedom Collective

London Workers Group

[M]

Rising Free Collective

Kronstat Kids (formerly Autonomous Group)

London Squatters Union

North London Anarchist Group

Anti-Fascist

Anti-Nazi League

[Q]

[R]

Bexley Campaign Against Racism and Fascism

Paddington Campaign Against Racism and Fascism

Anti-Nuclear

Anti-Nuclear Campaign

[U]

[V]

London Region Anti-Nuclear Alliance

[W]

Friends of the Earth

Scottish Campaign to Resist the Atomic Menace

Torness Alliance

PERSONNEL & ADMINISTRATION

3. The current numerical strength of the SDS is seventeen officers. Twelve are operational 'field' officers (eight Sergeants and four Constables) and supervision and administration are carried out by one Acting Chief Inspector, one Inspector, two Sergeants and one Constable. Additionally, one Constable is employed in the office pending transfer to operational duties.

4. During 1980 one officer left the operational team on completion of his tour of duty and two officers 'entered the field', increasing the number of operational officers to the full complement of twelve.

5. Three Constables were successful in the Competitive Promotion Examination of whom two were promoted during the year under review. A third Constable was promoted to Sergeant, having previously 'qualified'. One Sergeant was a successful 'competitor' in the Sergeants' Promotion Examination and two other Sergeants gained qualifying passes. None of the promoted officers has left Special Branch under the Interchange System by virtue of the 'exceptional retention' clause approved by the Commissioner.

6. The only other change in staff concerned the promotion of the Chief Inspector to Superintendent and as his place was taken by the existing Inspector with acting rank, it may be seen that the Squad had a fairly settled year as far as personnel is concerned.

7. Due to the pressure on space at Commissioner's Office, the SDS administration was moved in November to [redacted] Vincent Square, SW1, [redacted] [2] This arrangement has proved generally satisfactory and, in terms of security positively advantageous. Although as a result of the move the SDS has become a little remote from the rest of Special Branch, contact is maintained through frequent visits to CO by members of the office staff and the continued presence in that building of the Chief Superintendent and Superintendent who are in overall charge of the Squad.

WELFARE

8. This aspect of SDS work is regarded as being of paramount importance by all who are in a supervisory position on the Squad. In the totally unique situation in which the 'field' officers find themselves it is essential that their performance and attitude be carefully monitored, both in their own interests and those of the

Commissioner. Throughout their operational tour of duty they live a lie, and can only act naturally in the presence of their family and colleagues. With this in mind, twice weekly meetings continue to be held at one or other of the headquarters flats and the operational officers are required to attend unless prevented by unavoidable commitments. These meetings provide a forum which not only enables supervising officers to give directions and to acquaint 'field' officers with current policy matters, but which also allows the latter to relax in the company of others whom they trust. Additionally, on a regular basis, officers are met individually with a view to encouraging them to discuss any matters of a professional or private nature which they might be reluctant to reveal in the group. Furthermore it is accepted that, if he asks, an SDS officer will be met at any time by a supervising officer.

9. Despite the long hours worked and the fact that, on occasions, a 'field' officer may not see his family for several days, morale is high. There is little doubt that this is to some extent due to the fact that the office staff are conscious of their supportive, as well as their supervisory role and also the 'field' officers are aware of the interest shown in them by senior officers. This has been evidenced by visits made over the past twelve months by the Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Special Branch, and Commander 'Operations'.

SECURITY

10. The security of the operation is an ever-present concern because a slip in this area could not only endanger the future of the Squad but could also cause embarrassment to the Commissioner. Supervisory staff place great emphasis on the need to ensure that an officer's cover is as secure as possible before he enters the 'field'. Subsequently, operational officers have to devote a considerable amount of time to their cover backgrounds, as the groups to which they belong become increasingly security conscious. Careful attention too is paid to the subsequent employment of ex-SDS officers, as clearly any later identification of an officer by his erstwhile 'comrades' could have serious ramifications.

ACCOMMODATION

11. The acquisition of flats for officers' own use remains their personal responsibility because it is vital that everything about the premises, which are often visited by the 'comrades', should be capable of withstanding the closest scrutiny. In the past twelve months three officers changed their flats for various reasons, and all the moves were [redacted] accomplished without problem. The two headquarters [redacted] flats remain unchanged, [redacted] although alternative accommodation is [redacted] frequently inspected with a view to [redacted] removal at short notice, should [redacted] one or other become insecure. [redacted]

TRANSPORT

12. The system of providing each officer with personal transport has been maintained, and the details are recorded elsewhere (TR 14/73/10 Pt II). Once again, the year cannot be allowed to pass without recording thanks for the assistance and forbearance of Chief Inspector [redacted] 'B' [4] Department, [redacted] of 'T' Department and [redacted] of 'G' Department. [5] [6]

FINANCE

13. 1979/1980 Budget £16,880

Figures for the first nine months of this financial year are contained in the 1979 Annual Report.

	Expenditure for the period <u>1.1.80 to 31.3.80</u>	Total Expenditure for the year <u>1.4.79 to 31.3.80</u>
Rent	£2,237.51	£8,385.38
Gas and Electricity	230.89	755.43
Telephone	137.39	541.82
Rates	NIL	515.16
Operational Expenses	1,897.50	5,603.75
	<u>£4,503.29</u>	<u>£15,801.54</u>

14. 1980/1981 Budget £19,400

Details of expenditure incurred during the first nine months of the current financial year are as follows:-

Rent	£7,645.48
Gas and Electricity	495.05
Telephone	822.64
Rates	703.71
Operational Expenses	5,661.97
	<u>£15,328.85</u>

Although strict control of expenditure allowed a balance in excess of £1,000 to be left undrawn from the 1979/1980 budget, it is unlikely that such results will be repeated in respect of the 1980/1981 figure. It is anticipated however that expenditure during the remaining quarter will not exceed the outstanding balance. An increase of fifteen percent in the budget for the financial year 1981/1982 would take into account likely trends in inflation and would result in a requirement for £22,310, and this is the sum which is therefore sought.

REVIEW

15. The SDS regularly supplied accurate information on the public order scene during the year under review. To list all such instances here would repeat facts recorded elsewhere, and at the same time detract from the more noteworthy items, some of which are summarised below.

16. Predictably, the anti-nuclear movement was active throughout the year with various nuclear-related policies coming under attack. The transportation of nuclear waste and the siting of Cruise missiles in the United Kingdom provided focal points for demonstrations mounted in London. In East Lothian, the protests continued against the building of a nuclear power station at Torness Point, and demonstrations were held in May, and on a smaller scale in August. SDS officers were present on both occasions and the information passed to the Lothian and Borders Police was useful in preventing serious disorder and damage to property.

17. Anti-fascist activity continued to tax the resources of the Metropolitan Police and in February, March, April and June there were right wing marches which attracted counter demonstrations from many sections of the revolutionary left; the Trotskyist, Socialist Workers Party playing a principal role. The mid-summer period was quiet and the last sizeable opposed demonstration occurred in November when about 700 members of the British Movement marched in the Paddington area and were confronted by some 1,900 counter-demonstrators. SDS information was supplied in respect of all these marches;

18. The demonstrations which were held outside the unemployment office in Brixton during August to protest against the dismissal of two employees, who were members of the Socialist Workers Party, were the subject of SDS reports [REDACTED]

7A

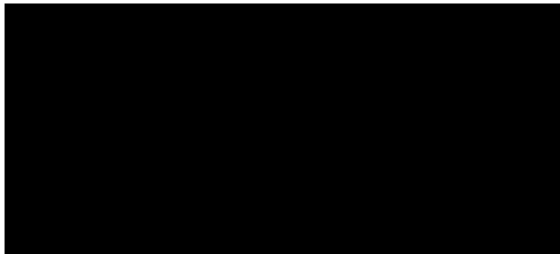
19. There is little doubt, however, that the largest event of 1980 organised by the Revolutionary Left was the Right to Work march which, although disguised as a broad-front campaign to fight rising unemployment was, in fact, the brainchild of the Socialist Workers Party. Some 100 marchers left Port Talbot on 23rd September and marched with gradually increasing numbers via London to Brighton. There, with TUC support, a demonstration was held on 10th October, the final day of the Conservative Party conference. The committee responsible for the organisation of the Right to Work Campaign was so effectively penetrated by the SDS that not only were small 'events' en route frustrated by advance information passed to local police, but furthermore, Sussex Police were provided with what amounted to a blue-print of the demonstration in their area which enabled the considerable police requirements to be well-tailored to the event.

THE YEAR AHEAD

20. The continuing existence of a Conservative Government, whose 'monetarist policies' are seen as the root cause of the rising number of unemployed, will doubtless provide the left with a motive for large-scale demonstrations. Indeed, a massive Right to Work march to end in London is already being planned for the early summer.

21. The Anti-Nazi League played a generally decreasing part in Anti-Fascist demonstrations during 1980 and the SWP, concerned by this decline, began an attempt to revitalise the League towards the end of the year. There are signs that their efforts are meeting with some success and the danger of large-scale counter-demonstrations whenever the extreme right take to the streets is ever present.

22. The SWP continues to be the largest revolutionary socialist organisation in the country presenting public order problems. The members have an ability to identify with non-aligned protestors when the objectives being pursued suit them politically. They have observed the success enjoyed by the anti-nuclear movement in 1980 and feel that there is capital to be gained from involvement in this field on a greater scale than at present. There appears, in any case, to be a growing concern among otherwise politically uncommitted people about the nuclear 'threat' and there is little possibility that this will cease to be an emotive issue in 1981.

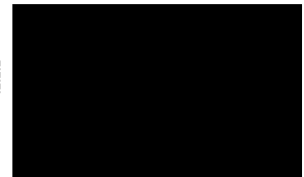


-8-

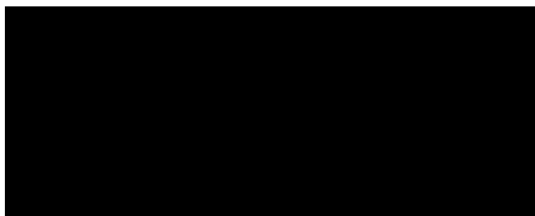
23. The Anarchists remain, as ever, unpredictable. Their numbers are, fortunately, small and it is hoped that their intentions will be known, to a degree at least, to the SDS.

24. There is little to suggest that, from a public order point of view, 1981 will differ greatly from the preceding year. It remains the purpose of the Special Demonstration Squad to provide the Police Service with reliable intelligence to assist in the maintenance of peace on the streets.

7B



T Butler
Acting Chief Inspector



12B.

Special Branch
Special Demonstration Squad

9th March 1981

MEMORANDUM

Chief Superintendent 'S' Squad

Special Demonstration Squad Transport

1. The authorised complement for the SDS fleet remains at fourteen, and for the most part it was fully utilised during 1980. Five vehicles were disposed of as being uneconomic - a further five vehicles were obtained, including three supplied by 'B' Dept.

2. A full record of all vehicles used during 1980 is submitted with this report, including a record of all operational costs from 1st January 1980 to 31st December 1980. Although petrol and maintenance costs have risen in the past year the average cost per mile for the fleet has remained constant at 12.1p. The safety factors in relation to vehicle maintenance recommended by [REDACTED] (T.6 Branch) last year, continue to be rigidly applied in the case of all SDS vehicles.

3. [9] SDS vehicles are purchased and disposed of only after consultation with [REDACTED] (Transport Branch), [REDACTED] (G9 Branch) and Chief Inspector [REDACTED] (P10)

[11A]

Signature

C Skey
Detective Sergeant

DETAILS OF SDS FLEET AND OPERATIONAL COSTS FOR THE PERIOD 1.1.80 - 31.3.80

FLEET NO.	MAKE/TYPE	INDEX NO.	CHANGES/DATES	MILEAGE RUN	FUEL COSTS	RUNNING COSTS	TOTAL COSTS
12				5,085	186.82	76.23	263.05
				2,302	150.92	47.53	198.45
				2,609	121.79	79.75	201.54
				4,508	399.66	144.35	544.01
				4,104	192.09	Nil	192.09
				2,775	192.69	169.10	361.79
				12,866	653.95	437.27	1091.22
				3,604	227.58	54.58	282.16
				8,175	337.59	547.44	885.03
				3,548	176.70	62.76	239.46
				1,750	77.02	159.43	236.45
				3,790 *	117.12	52.36	169.48

12

		515	32.31	Nil	32.31
		2,834	£ 205.88	£ 184.06	£ 389.94
* Estimated odometer defective	TOTALS	58,465	£ 3,072.12	£ 2,014.86	£ 5,086.98

DETAILS OF SDS FLEET AND OPERATIONAL COSTS FOR PERIOD 1.1.80 - 31.12.80

FLEET NO.	MAKE/TYPE	INDEX NO.	CHANGES/DATES	MILEAGE RUN	FUEL COSTS	RUNNING COSTS	TOTAL COSTS
13				700	20.09	nil	20.09
				10,426	336.00	615.00	951.00
				5,468	386.61	246.79	633.40
				1,138	94.18	244.60	338.78
				9,806	456.46	506.36	962.82
				19,306	1,432.82	1,906.22	3,339.04
				9,775	432.82	1,669.74	2,102.56
				11,343	878.26	256.35	1,134.61
				23,170	1,455.50	1,541.40	2,996.90
				10,833	789.41	1,309.29	2,098.70
				23,395	1,220.73	1,005.61	2,226.34
				7,070	405.45	264.51	669.96
				6,618	523.92	285.25	809.17
				3,164	199.42	314.92	514.34
				885	30.00	637.69	667.69

13

		10,446	608.57	399.28	1,007.85
		12,439	872.98	784.65	1,657.63
	TOTALS	165,982	£ 10,143.22	£ 11,987.66	£ 22,130.88