

# MINUTE SHEET

6.

Special Branch report ..... 6A

Copy report re SDS Transport ..... 6B-C

## Commander Operations

1. The annual review of the Special Demonstration Squad for the year 1974/75 is, once again, a very illuminating and interesting document.

2. The prime objective of the Squad, as it always has been, is the obtaining of information in the field of public order, on which the Uniform Branch can rely and prepare the necessary police action. Intelligence on individuals and organisations in the extremist groupings is the valuable by-product.

3. It has been found that as these bodies become more surveillance conscious so the job of the SDS becomes more demanding to avoid detection with its inevitable publicity and possible embarrassment. The results to date speak for themselves.

4. Naturally the Squad strives to improve its efficiency and output

[REDACTED]

6 (contd)

all the time and I think it can be said that this continues to be the case. Careful supervision and judgement both in coverage, welfare and finance are the factors governing this aspect.

5. The measure of support, understanding and encouragement the Squad has received from senior officers in the Force makes this exacting work eminently worthwhile and augurs well for the future.

6. A copy report of the Squad's report concerning their transport is attached at 6B and 6C. The originals of these being dealt with on the Transport Policy File TR 14/73/10.

1A

HN332

SB  
7.2.75.

Chief Superintendent

7.

ACC

It is now time for us to ask for Home Office authority for the continuation of the work of the Special Squad. Your previous letter to Home Office on this subject is at folio 90A on the Part I file attached.

I fully support the proposal in Special Branch that this operation should continue, and I attach a draft letter to Sir James Waddell for your consideration. In that draft I have made the points covering the security of the Squad's operations, which I know are accepted by all concerned.

You will note that we are asking for an increased budget from £7,500 to £8,600 for these operations in the year ahead. In the event that you are able to support my recommendations outlined in the draft letter, the papers should be seen by Commissioner, through Receiver. This is, I believe, the first precise intimation the Receiver will have had about the scope and style of these operations.

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SB  
13.2.75

DAC

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50

SDS Annual Report..... 50A  
Copy SB memo re transport ..... 50B  
Commander Operations 2 *2/28/77 referred.*

1. The latest annual review of the Special Demonstration Squad (for the year 1975/1976) indicates quite clearly the continuing scope and value of the Squad's operations.

2. While, as always, targetted in general against extreme left-wing organisations likely to cause problems in the public order field, the Squad enjoys enough flexibility to concentrate its attentions in those political groups which, in the light of experience and assessment, are considered to present the greatest potential headaches for police at any given period. During the forthcoming year, it seems inevitable that, of major importance in this field, will be the growing tension between groups supporting opposing racial policies and in particular the efforts of the ultra-left to deny the streets and public meetings to the National Front and similar right-wing parties.

3. [REDACTED] the Squad has obtained intelligence useful in the combatting of organisations supporting the Provisional IRA. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

4. There is little doubt that the major public events during the year 1977 will present the extreme political groups with ample opportunities for creating public disorder. The resources of the police as a whole are bound to be stretched to the limit, and the information which can be supplied by the SDS, in advance of the events, must continue to be of great advantage to the Uniform Branch.

5. The increase in the budget sought for the coming year (a little under 14% over each of the last two years) seems inevitable, when the rate of inflation in general is considered and, in particular, the swingeing increases in rents, rates and public utilities.

[REDACTED]

6. It is a tenet of the Squad that supervision of the field officers' security and work output, and the maintenance of their morale should be the prime considerations of the supervising officers. That this has been observed during the year under review is apparent from the continuing success of the Squad and the enthusiasm of its members.

SB  
3.2.77

[REDACTED] 4  
Chief Superintendent

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73.

ACC (thro' Receiver)

Annual Report and draft letter to Home Office are forwarded herewith for your consideration, please.

In a year when public order issues increased and heavy demands were made upon police, the work of the Special Demonstration Squad proved invaluable. The forecast clash between the ultra-right and ultra-left wing organisations materialised, and the prior intelligence supplied by the SDS not only assisted Uniform Branch in preparing adequate plans to deal with major confrontations, but also ensured preventive policing of smaller demonstrations with a potential for violence.

The coming year, with bye-elections and a possible General Election, holds considerable potential for disorder on the streets whilst the growth of militant anarchist groups is causing concern in the international terrorist field. I consider the continuing role of this small group to be essential.

As you will see, an increase of just over 13% in the budget is being requested mainly to cover the effect of inflation on rental charges and domestic services.

SB  
28.3.78

*J. J. J.*  
DAC

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