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G J Kelland Esq CBE QPM
Assistant Commissioner 'C'
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New Scotland Yard
Broadway
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Your reference

Our reference QPE/66 1/8/5 Date 5 April 1983

Den filled

Before departing on leave last week, Hayden Phillips asked me to reply to your letter of 11 February in which you sought authority to continue with the Special Demonstration Squad.

We note the continuing value of the Squad and the additional commitments it has now been given. We regard as particularly important your assurance about the close supervision it receives.

This letter may be taken as authority to continue with the arrangements, and to incur expenditure of up to £35,000 in 1983/84.



11 February 1983

Our ref: 58 588/Unreg/694 Pt IV

Your ref: OPE/66 1/8/5

G H Phillips Esq., Home Office.

Dear

I am writing once more to seek authority to continue the Special Demonstration Squad operation in Special Branch for a further twelve months.

The Squad still proves to be an invaluable aid in obtaining the intelligence needed for the appropriate policing of situations involving potential public disorder. There was much involvement in 1982 in seeking information about street disorder in London. We were also able to supply accurate information to our Sussex colleagues whilst the Prime Minister was attending the Conservative Party Conference. The Squad is now further tasked to gather intelligence about white extremists who are attempting to foment black discontent and about members of the animal liberation movement who are committing criminal offences.

The number of field officers is currently up to the agreed establishment of twelve and they continue to teceive the closest supervision. Because of the increase in strength, and taking into account the effect of inflation even at its diminished rate, I would ask that a budget of £35,000 be approved for the forthcoming financial year.

Mours

(G.J. KELLAND) Assistant Commissioner

(Crime)

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Cath. Papells Sept WRJ Andrew, CB Home Office

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Yours

Special Demonstration Squad

Special Branch

New Scotland Yard

SW1H OBG

Commander 'Operations'

ANNUAL REPORT 1982

INTRODUCTION:

MEMORANDUM

With increasing effectiveness over the years, the Special Demonstration Squad, a support group formed in 1968 at the height of the anti-Vietnam demonstrations, has provided high quality information, unavailable from other sources, concerning the activities of the ultra left, revolutionary and anarchist fraternity. Consequently accurate assessments can be supplied to the uniform branch of the police service in London and elsewhere, concerning the number of persons, the degree of likely or potential violence and the plans of the organisers and participants in demonstrations. Such information obtained enables a valued and necessary service to be provided in planning for such street level protests to be policed effectively. Other information gleaned about extremist and pressure groups, including prominent individuals, is a valuable by-product passed to the relevant sections of Special Branch and to the Security Service. This report outlines the activities, finances, administration and general security of the Special Demonstration Squad during the year ending 31st December, 1982.

COVERAGE:

2. To achieve its allotted objectives, the following main organisations are, at present, directly penetrated or indirectly monitored by SDS officers:

TROTSKYIST

Socialist Workers Party
Right to Work Campaign
Socialist Workers Student Organisation
Revolutionary Communist Party
Spartacist League
Red Action

Α

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Revolutionary Communist Group

Fight Racism Fight Imperialism

MARXIST-LENINIST

Revolutionary Communist Party of Great Britain (M-L)
Peoples Democratic Front
Communist Youth Union of Britain
Albanian Society
Progressive Cultural Association
London Student Movement

PRO-IRISH

Troops Out Movement
Irish Freedom Movement
Armagh Co-ordinating Group
North (and South) Irish Solidarity Committees
Irish in Britain Representation Group

ANARCHIST

Freedom Collective
Xtra
121 Brixton Anarchist Bookshop
Brixton Squatters Aid
Direct Action Movement
Belfast Anarchist Collective
Black Flag

ANTI-FASCIST

Anti Nazi League Workers Against Racism

ANTI-NUCLEAR

Anti-Nuclear Campaign
Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
Peace Camp Movement
European Nuclear Disarmament

PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION:

- The numerical strength of the SDS presently stands at eighteen officers. Of these, eight Sergeants and four Constables are operational, whilst two Constables are engaged in the administration office pending transfer to operational duties in 1983. Supervisory and administrative duties are performed by a Chief Inspector, Inspector and two Sergeants. Further overall supervision is under the umbrella of a Chief Superintendent and Superintendent in charge of 'S' Squad, responsible for technical and other support services within Special Branch.
- 4. During 1982 an Inspector and three Sergeants left operational duties on completion of their tour of duty, normally a maximum of four years. They were replaced by a Sergeant and four Constables.
- 5. Two Constables were successful in the 1982 Competitive Promotion Examination and have been promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Another Constable passed the Promotion Examination as a qualifier.
- By virtue of the 'exceptional retention' clause approved by the Commissioner, none of the promoted officers has left Special Branch under the interchange system.
 - 6. Since 1970 the Squad has operated on an optimum figure of twelve operational officers. Variations in establishment throughout the year have occurred due to four officers completing their tour of duty; the inability, on occasions, to acquire the right calibre officers as replacements and the lack of volunteers ready and willing to sacrifice their normal working existence for the exceptionally demanding role required. However, as we enter 1983, I am in a position to report that the current establishment target of twelve operational officers has been reached.

WELFARE/SUPERVISION:

7. With the number of operational officers increasing from nine to twelve throughout 1982, it has given the Unit a wider and more substantial coverage of certain organisations. However, even with this figure, we are spread thinly on the ground. To meet the challenges faced, bearing in mind the paramount requirement of security, new areas are constantly explored and on occasions officers are directed to fade from one organisation to reappear within another as the need arises. Whilst such situations are kept to a minimum, it is the only strategy possible to maintain realistic coverage of potential

trouble areas. Due to the increasing demands made on individuals, the fact that each officer has to live with his "alter ego". often under difficult and stressful circumstances, welfare is of the utmost importance. By its very nature, the SDS operation dictates that each officer must cut himself off from contact with other police officers and does not involve himself in any social or other overt activity directly or indirectly associated with the police service. Thus supervisory officers remain their main link with the Service and to this end twice-weekly meetings are held at one or other of the two secure headquarter flats, when all members are normally present. In addition, operational officers are regularly met individually by supervisory officers, so that each one has the opportunity to discuss any personal or professional problems privately. This blend of collective and personal close supervision is essential for the maintenance of high morale and professionalism. Furthermore it is accepted practice that any officer can seek advice or assistance from any of the SDS supervisory or administrative staff at any time, by telephone or personal contact.

SECURITY:

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8. The difficulties in maintaining a high degree of security have increased in direct proportion to the length of time the Squad has been in existence, now 14 years. To combat this problem, security precautions are continually reviewed. Each new operational officer is carefully selected, thoroughly schooled in a 'cover story'

provided with appropriate documentation to substantiate his 'new' existence. Improvements over the years have catered for most, if not all, loopholes or anomalies save the human error. All officers who, of necessity, become aware of the activities of the SDS are continually reminded of the need to maintain security. Although each officer alters his appearance to suit his role and subsequently reverts to a more normal appearance befitting a police officer, continued cognisance is taken where to best place an individual when he has completed his tour of duty. The balance of career development, together with a position of suitable employment where his former activities will not be compromised, remain the basis of such a decision. Additionally, the individual officer's view is taken into consideration, as far as practicable.

ACCOMMODATION:

9. A continuing problem for the Squad is the acute shortage of comparatively cheap, furnished accommodation. Officers entering the 'field' during 1982 have experienced considerable

difficulty in obtaining 'cover' flats or bed-sitters meeting with the criteria of security and expense. A policy by certain absentee landlords to sell individual units forced three established officers to seek alternative accommodation during the year and two other officers are currently under a similar threat. Such problems have been encountered in initial attempts to obtain alternative headquarter flats, particularly in large anonymous blocks. Fortunately the latter situation is not pressing as both present headquarter flats are deemed to be safe venues for regular squad meetings, although future moves may need to be contemplated during 1983.

TRANSPORT:

10. Once again the provision of 'privately owned' secondhand motor vehicles to each officer has proved of inestimable value. The assistance and co-operation of Chief Inspector

5 G' Department, Transport' and Trunning of this part of the SDS operation. A comprehensive report, concerning SDS transport, is dealt with separately on TR 14/73/10 Pt II.

FINANCES:

11. 1981/1982 Budget £25,000

Credit balance brought forward as at 31.3.81	1,521.06
Imprest received from 1.4.81 - 31.3.82	23,200.00
Credit received on 25.1.82	237.00
Total income for period	24,958.06

	Expenditure from 1.4.81 to 31.12.81	Expenditure from 1.1.82 to 31.3.82	Expenditure from 1.4.81 to 31.3.82			
Rent	8,429.89	2,386.96	10,816.85			
Gas & Electricity	929.46	503.42	1,455.48			
Telephones	621.2	522.25	1,142.87			
Rates	2,017.06	97.82	2,114.88			
Operational expenses	5,455.59	2,258.76	7,714.35			
	17,453.22	5,769.21	23,222.43			

12. 1982/83 Budget: £30,000

Expenditure for the period 1.4.82 to 31.12.82:-

Rent 9,722.32

Gas & Electricity 827.46

Telephones 797.51

Rates 1,407.90

Operational expenses 9,115.45

21,870.64

SDS Account at 31.12.82:-

Balance B/F from 31.3.82 (audited and found correct on 2.4	.82) 1,735.63
Imprest received from 1.4.82 to 31.12.82	22,500.00
Credit received 7.7.82	43.12
Expenditure for the period 1.4.82 to 31.12.82	24,278.75 21,870.64
SDS BALANCE AT 31.12.82	£2,408.11

- 13. Strict control of expenditure has enabled the Squad to keep within its 1982/3 approved total budget of £30,000. Calculated outgoings for the final quarter of the present financial year are not expected to exceed this overall budget and, therefore, the projected figures produced in the 1981 Annual Report will prove an accurate assessment of the year's costs. This has been due mainly to the fact that the Squad has been operating for most of the year with less officers than the establishment allows. Maintaining a full compliment of twelve officers has inevitably increased recent expenditure, quickly eroding the surplus built up during the year.
- 14. Although inflation is into the single figure, the economic situation makes future budgetary assessments difficult to formulate. Whilst electricity prices have been pegged, gas charges increased by a total of 25% during 1982 and it is anticipated that general rates will be increased in most, if not all, London boroughs in April 1983.

- 15. Specific reference must also be made to an area of increasing operational expenses which cannot constitute incidental expenditure by way of normal diary claims. For example, subscriptions paid for membership of various political groups; donations individuals are obliged to make for particular campaigns; purchase of publications; telephone charges for headquarter flats; equipment hire; miscellaneous expenses regularly incurred towards setting up and maintaining 'cover' flats, all constitute regular operational expenses, over and above the normal charges for rents, rates, gas and electricity.
- 16. With these factors borne in mind it is considered necessary to seek approval for the 1983/84 budget to be increased by 16.6% to £35,000.
- 17. On 2nd April, 1982 the SDS accounts for 1981/1982 were audited by Deputy Director of Finance, and found correct.

REVIEW AND PERSPECTIVES:

- One of the primary objectives of the Special Demonstration Squad is to predict the future trends in street level extremist political activity, posing a serious or potential threat to public order. A constant review of such activity is undertaken by supervising officers in order to place and direct operational officers towards those areas from which such threats emanate. The penetration of any organisation is never undertaken unless there is justification on the basis of the Commissioner's responsibility for the preservation of public order in the Metropolis. From the practical viewpoint a continual flow of information covering public order matters, security and criminal activities concerning the organisations penetrated or monitored is provided by the Special Demonstration Squad on a daily basis. To detail such information acquired throughout 1982 would be impractical. However, in order to give an indication of the activities of the Squad, I have reviewed, albeit briefly, certain main areas of current interest, including 1 82 events worthy of note and trends for 1983.
- 19. On 1st April 1982 a joint team of officers from Special Branch and the Anti-Terrorist Squad (COC13) executed search warrants against the Freedom Collective of Anarchists and Little 'A' Printers in the East End of London. Printing plates and several thousand pamphlets dealing with the manufacture of explosive devices, home-made guns, assassination techniques and booby-traps were seized. It was believed that the intention was to distribute the pamphlets to selected areas of London prior to Easter in anticipation of a recurrence of 1981's serious racial disturbances. In the event, the Director of Public Prosecutions decided not to prosecute the

seven anarchists arrested during the search. However, police action had the effect of curbing the distribution of such literature. All the information relating to printing of the material and its sources was provided by the SDS prior to the execution of the warrants. Likewise the Squad was in a position to provide information on the subsequent reaction to the raids and continues to monitor the machinations and activities of this particular strata of society.

- In the aftermath of the Railton Road, Brixton, disturbance in November 1982, press accounts of 'white anarchist agitators' tended to confuse the real effect anarchists have on the young black population frequenting the area. SDS information has indicated that no links exist between the highly politicised Brixton anarchists and the local young black community. All attempts to build bridges between the political and purely criminal elements have proved a total failure. In short, the assessment of anarchist involvement follows the same pattern which prevailed after the 1981 disorders, that anarchists are limited to participation in a criminal disturbance rather than incitement of an ideologically motivated uprising. However, given the motivation of the more prominent of the Brixton anarchists and their fundamental aim of destroying the State, there is no doubt that they will seek to heighten conflict with the police, the State's more overt arm, whenever the opportunity presents itself.
- 21. Further white political participation in the emotive issue of racism in Brixton manifested itself on this occasion through the opportunist politics of individual members of Workers Against Racism, a 'front' organisation of the Revolutionary Communist Party. Such ability to act spontaneously motivates certain publicity seeking elements within that organisation and receives attention by the media out of all proportion to the minimal influence such organisations have on the local population. SDS information clearly has and will continue to form the guidelines in assessing the effect of such groups at street level.
- With particular reference to the East London branch of the RCP, it has become apparent to its leadership that a tremendous amount of work has been done in that area with minimum concrete results. Although Workers Against Racism have long courted the Asian population they have failed to make any real impact on them commensurate with the energy expended. Workers Against Racism are seeking new areas where the population may be more receptive to the organisation with the intention of attracting the black and 'trendy' white community, particularly in the East End, and the Southern areas of London, both groups being more capable of individual action than the Asians. Moves in this direction have been seen through RCP candidature in the Bermondsey by-election and increasing vociferous activity surrounding the Lambeth Police Consultative Group, and links with the Lambeth Police Monitoring Group and the Hackney Police Monitoring Group.

- 23. The Falklands conflict dominated the early part of the year, predictably giving rise to the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee for Peace in the Falklands representing a number of pacifist and left-wing organisations. Regular Sunday demonstrations took place during the hostilities in the South Atlantic. As the Ad Hoc Committee gained momentum, through information supplied by the SDS and elsewhere, it became noticeable that the extreme left were making a determined effort to infiltrate and dominate the movement. Prior knowledge of potential trouble-makers, firm action by police and co-operation by the organisers prevented disorder and, by and large, each event was relatively peaceful, although minor incidents resulted in the arrest of several left and right wing participants.
- 24. The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament marked the United Nations Special Session for Disarmament with a national demonstration on 6th June. Planned originally to take place at Greenham Common, it was switched to London when the visit by President Reagan was announced. Over 90,000 people were attracted by this event making it one of the largest CND demonstrations for a number of years. This was followed on 8th June by a CND inspired rally in the Central Hall, Westminster, providing an 'alternative' to the President's speech in Parliament on that day.
- Much of the year was spent by the CND preparing for Operation 'Hard Rock'. Their efforts, whilst hailed as a 'victory' by the organisation, were defused largely because of the cancellation of this civil defence exercise by the Home Office. 1983 will be a decisive year for the Peace Movement. The enthusiastic endorsement of non-violent direct action, the result of an intense internal debate over the past two years, at the 1982 CND Annual Conference held at Sheffield in November marked a gathering of momentum towards the first stage of their present campaign - the prevention of the installation of Cruise missiles and the rejection of Trident. A mass mobilisation in support of the Women's Peace Camp at Greenham Common, a 1982 cause celebre. on 12/13th December was the first step in the strengthening of their resolve. Such actions will be followed in 1983 by the setting up of further peace camps, lobbying Parliament, doorstep and workplace canvassing, increasing nonviolent direct actions at local level and activity during the Sizewell 'B' public enquiry. Easter national demonstrations are planned for England (Greenham Common and/or Aldermaston), Scotland and possibly Wales, building towards a further national demonstration in the capital, on Saturday 22nd October 1983, to co-incide with the beginning of UN Disarmament week. If by Autumn 1983 Cruise missiles are still due to be deployed, CND will prepare themselves to make a more direct challenge to the Government, against the background of a possible General Election, in the form of mass non-violent direct action and civil disobedience tactics.
- 26. President Reagan's visit also spawned the Reagan Reception Committee, a Socialist Workers Party vehicle set up for the express purpose of protesting against the President's visit.

A large rowdy demonstration planned to take place in Grosvenor Square, W1, was diluted through a 'volte-face' decision by SWP Central Committee, who were of the opinion that the vast majority of trade unionists and the 'working class' in this country, although supporting the Government in its stand against the aggression by Argentina, were against the use of military force in custing Argentinian forces from the Falklands and looked upon President Reagan as being a peacemaker. In the event a much reduced peaceful picket by some 2,500 supporters took place, a token gesture to what was originally envisaged. Commensurate with the propaganda war against the present Conservative Government, the Socialist Workers Party, under the guise of the Right to Work Campaign, attempted to capitalise on the unemployment situation by holding a 'March on Parliament' from 21st to 25th February 1982. This particular series of demonstrations broke with RTWC practice in that all took place in London, whereby on previous occasions demonstrators have marched from the provinces to the capital. The slogan "Jobs not Y.O.Ps", designed to attract adverse publicity for the Youth Opportunities Scheme, concluded with a weak demonstration of 450 supporters. Advanced plans were known and proved invaluable in policing this event.

- 27. Similar knowledge was obtained of the organisation and tactics behind the SWP's decision to picket, instead of marching, under the banner of the RTWC, to the Conservative Party Conference on 8th October, 1982. At that time, as a result of the TUC inspired national and regional 'days of action' in support of the industrial dispute by Health Service workers, the SWP saw its priority to rally around the latter by strengthening local picket lines at hospitals. Thus, as predicted, only some 400 persons, a much reduced turn-out than previous years, hurled verbal abuse at delegates leaving or entering the Brighton Conference Centre resulting in four arrests. Sussex Police have placed on record their appreciation of the assistance rendered by the SDS in connection with this event.
- 28. Demoralised by the pay dispute settlements of the health workers, miners and railwaymen, the Socialist Workers Party appeared to lose its appetite for large scale demonstrations during the latter half of 1982, particularly on such specific issues, having calculated that during the present period of recession and high unemployment, such tactics do not attract new membership. In keeping with Bolshevik philosophy, the SWP has reverted to consolidation, building geographical branches and intervening in industrial disputes at local level. Inevitably the SWP will continue to exploit any opportunity to gain political capital from the emotive issues of the day, in particular the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, including an attempt to strengthen and mobilise mass militant activity, including non-violent direct action, through rank and file trade unionists.

- Any anticipated confrontation between the extreme right wing and the revolutionary left did not materialise in 1982. This was due, in part, to the right exercised by the Commissioner under the Public Order Act 1936, to ban processions where there was a strong possibility of public disorder occurring. As the result of internal power struggles, the right wing movements have again fragmented. They are weak, lack finances and are demoralised at present. Their demonstrations, when held, have been small and their electoral support barely significant. Any present general orientation towards countering right wing organisations is seen by the Anti Nazi League as a wasted exercise and counter-productive. Physical attacks by the revolutionary left would provide the right with the opportunity to mobilise a number of otherwise passive supporters. The ANL, however, is being retained by the SWP, as a national body, and a means of organising against the extreme right in future should circumstances radically alter.
- 30. It has been policy in recent years that no direct coverage be given to either the Provisional Sinn Fein or the Workers Party. Effective penetration, however, has been made and will be maintained of fringe organisations such as the Troops Out Movement, the Irish Freedom Movement (formerly the Smash the Prevention of Terrorism Act Campaign a 'front' of the Revolutionary Communist Party) and the new North and South London Irish Solidarity Committees, 'fronts' of the Revolutionary Communist Group.

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Following closely on the heels of sexism and racism, speciesism, a concept linking cruelty to animals to the oppression of all non-human beings, has recently focussed the activities of the broad based Animal Liberation Movement. Although London has yet to see large demonstrations by this movement, some of the more militant individuals, particularly within the Animal Liberation Front, are probably the most experienced exponents of direct action and agitation in this country today. Whilst the Government have promised to publish a green paper on animal welfare - possibly in the next six months - with a view to legislation in the next Parliament, an example of a potential danger came in the shape of crude letter bombs sent to the Prime Minister and other established political leaders in November 1982, purporting to be from the hitherto unknown Animal Rights Militia. The Animal Liberation Movement functions much like the Peace Movement in that it is decentralised and consists mainly of local groups varying in practice and effectiveness. Coverage of such diverse and numerous groups by the Special Demonstration

Squad can never be absolute. Nevertheless, in keeping with our main objectives, inroads have commenced.

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Signature

N D Short/ Chief Inspector

Special Branch Special Demonstration Squad

MEMORANDUM

Chief Superintendent 'S' Squad

SPECIAL DEMONSTRATION SQUAD TRANSPORT

- 1. The authorised strength of the SDS fleet remains at 14 and all vehicles were in operation for most of the year. Seven vehicles were disposed of, three due to officers leaving the Squad and four due to operational reasons, and eight vehicles were taken into use. One vehicle was put into operational use in early January 1983 and is not included in the breakdown of operational costs for the period 1st January 1982 to 31st December 1982 submitted with this report.
- 2. The total operational cost of the fleet, £23,436.64, shows a decrease in 1982 from the previous year by over £1,000. It should be noted that whilst the figures shown under 'Repairs' include the cost of vehicle excise licences and the high initial cost of a newly acquired vehicle having a complete brake system overhaul as recommended by the Senior Engineer Transport (Maintenance), the total repair cost of the fleet also shows a decrease from the previous year's figures. The average cost per mile for the fleet increased from 13.80 pence in 1981 to 14.72 pence.
- 3. Submitted with this report are details of vehicles acquired and disposed of in 1982.

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Signature

M Gray Detective Sergeant

BREAKDOWN OF RUNNING COSTS FOR SDS VEHICLES

1.1.82 to 31.3.82

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