

Room 892

PA. on liaison with Security Service Special Branch

file [redacted] 1

MEMORANDUM

6 December 1973

7/12.

To All Commanders and Squad Chief Superintendents

1. DAC and Commanders Operations and Administration had a frank and free-ranging discussion at Box 500 on Tuesday 4 December with [redacted], Director 'F' Branch, and his assistant directors on the role of 'F' Branch and its relationship with Special Branch. (Attached for the information of Chief Superintendents 'C' and 'E' Squads is a copy of the organisation of 'F' Branch down to heads of sub-sections.)
2. After [redacted] had explained the role of his Branch, the DAC spoke of the need to avoid duplication of coverage and effort as between the Security Service and ourselves and laid great stress on the high priority Special Branch now has to give to problems of public order and other specifically police matters.
3. The essentials of the agreed points were as follows and, notwithstanding that on the basis of discussion they were intended to affect 'F' Branch and 'C' and 'E' Squads, should nevertheless be taken as the basis for all general squad contact with the Security Service:
 - (a) All matters of policy must be dealt with at least at Head of Sub-Section/Detective Chief Superintendent level. This means that any such problems arising from desk officers or other levels must be taken up with Head of Sub-Section or Assistant Director in the first instance since it is clearly not in the interests of either organisation for decisions to be taken by those without the authority so to do.
 - (b) In cases of any ambiguity there must be advance consultation with the Security Service before the deployment of Special Branch effort on what appears to be Security Service targets, whether

initiated by that Service or ourselves in order to define priorities, possible areas of duplication of effort, and the kind of result with which the Security Service would be satisfied.

(c) All major reports by us to the Security Service should be acknowledged by them with an indication as to the usefulness or otherwise of our efforts. It follows if they assist us in the same way in regard to public order or other specifically police problems we should respond similarly.

(d) There should be six-monthly meetings, or whenever exceptional circumstances dictate, of Assistant Directors and Chief Superintendents in respective areas to discuss targeting and operational requirements.

4. It should follow that by the action envisaged above there should evolve an even closer and mutually more productive liaison between this Branch and the Security Service which should contribute to ease our own work-load at a time when we are clearly at full stretch and are likely to be so for the foreseeable future.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'W. Hunt', is located in the lower right quadrant of the page.

Box 500

6 December 1973

Dear

Thank you very much for entertaining us in such style on Tuesday and for providing a most useful opportunity for a chat with you and your colleagues about our mutual interests. I should have written to you yesterday but I took the day off at short notice because the weather seemed ideal for planting out a huge consignment of shrubs and bushes which had been delivered during the icy weather last week and had been lying in my garage.

I found your note awaiting me here today and I have circulated copies to those senior SB officers here who have frequent dealings with your Service, together with a short memorandum of my own covering the points we dealt with in discussion. If the understandings we have reached lead eventually to a situation where the amount of work we do here on your behalf is restricted to what you really need and to my Squad Chief Superintendents ensuring that they receive from your officers all the assistance they are able to provide to assist us in dealing with our crime and public order problems, we should all save a great deal of time and effort.

Thank you once again for a very pleasant lunch. I look forward to meeting up with you during the round of seasonal festivities.

Yours ever

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Yours ever



BOX No. 500,
PARLIAMENT STREET B.O.,
LONDON SW1A 2LZ

4 December 1973

Dear Vic,

Thank you for coming along today to meet my Assistant Directors. I trust you now have a reasonably clear idea of who does what in F Branch. For our part we have a much better understanding of the pressures upon you and of your law and order priorities. As agreed in discussion we will be very ready, in the interests of avoiding duplication of coverage and effort, to consult at any time with your senior officers about targetting and operational requirements.

2. As I indicated to you, the appropriate points for consultation about targetting priorities and policy matters generally are at Assistant Director or head of sub section level. For your guidance I have indicated in the attached outline of F section responsibilities the names of heads of sub sections in the various fields of investigation.

Yours sincerely,

Deputy Assistant Commissioner V S Gilbert,
SPECIAL BRANCH.



F BRANCH

Director: [Redacted]

F Branch is the Counter-Subversion branch of the Security Service. It is divided into five sections each under an Assistant Director.

F1: [Redacted]

Study and investigation of indigenous subversive organisations and activities in Great Britain (excluding Irish extremism).

a. [Redacted]

Communism

b. [Redacted]

Trotskyism and Pro-Chinese Communism
Anarchism, revolutionary protest and the Alternative Society
Fascism and right wing extremism
Welsh and Scottish Nationalist extremism
Pacifism

F2: [Redacted]

a. [Redacted]

Study and investigation of subversive activities in the Public Service, the Armed Forces and in firms engage in classified work for HM Government.

b. [Redacted]

Study and investigation of subversive activities in industry.

c. [Redacted]

Research

F3: [Redacted]

a. [Redacted]

Study of the theoretical aspects of subversion on a world-wide scale.

/b.



b. Study and investigation of alien and Old Commonwealth subversive personalities visiting or resident in the UK and of British subversive personalities visiting or resident in foreign or Old Commonwealth countries.

c. [REDACTED]: Middle East Terrorism and [REDACTED]: other alien Terrorism.

Study and investigation of the intelligence aspects of politically motivated terrorist activities (including assassination, bombing and hijacking) carried out by alien groups in the UK or against British interests.

These functions involve the exchange of intelligence and liaison with Commonwealth and friendly foreign Intelligence and Security Services.

F4: [REDACTED]

Agent support section serving all F Branch sections.

F5: [REDACTED]

a. [REDACTED]

Study and investigation of the activities of new Commonwealth subversive personalities in the UK and of British subversive personalities visiting or resident in New Commonwealth countries.

b. Study and investigation of racially based organisations in the UK including Black Power.

c. [REDACTED]

Study and investigation of Rhodesian and South African intelligence activities and of the activities of the South African Communist Party and Southern African liberation movements in the UK.

d. [REDACTED]

Study of subversion in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

December 1973

[REDACTED]