Box 500

23 February 1976

Thank you very much for the draft minutes which you left with me covering the meeting between your Director-General and the Commissioner here on 16 February. I have referred the draft to senior officers here and they are content that we should proceed on the lines drafted.

The following points might be helpful to you on the actual implementation of our agreements:

With regard to para 2(a), we understand that your listson officer will be to the can start here at any time convenient to yourselves and I would be pleased to see him to establish how he would like his normal twice-weekly visits to Special Branch to be arranged. It would, of course, be helpful if these visits could take place on regular occasions (subject to due notice of any necessary alteration) so that senior and supervising officers here would be aware in advance of his availability for any required talks.

With regard to 2(b), I would like to agree with you the timing of the twice-yearly informal conferences between your officers and ours, and would suggest that March and September might be convenient. This would place these conferences a few weeks before the twiceyearly National Security Conferences and would provide an opportunity for any points raised in informal discussion to be considered as more formal agenda items at the National Conferences. As I explained when you called, we would hope to be represented here at ranks from Chief Inspector/Superintendent upwards in order that these informal talks could include policy issues and priorities against the background of the Met SB's total commitments. I would hope therefore that when you come to consider items for the first agenda your representatives could meet us at that level; I did not myself feel that the analogy of comparing these proposed conferences with Regional SB Conferences attended by your people (and at which Met SB is rarely represented above Sergeant/Inspector rank) quite met what the Commissioner had in mind when he made this proposal.

with regard to item 2(c), the Commissioner's first thought when proposing this item was that senior officers from the Bomb Squad, Diplomatic Protection Group, and possibly our 'A' Department in charge of uniform operations, would benefit from meeting your people and provincial colleagues at such presentations. We could consider and provincial officers outside those precise areas if such a need arose from our discussions.

With regard to paragraph 2(d) on the joint interchange of our officers to look at terrorism, we are prepared to start as soon as you are ready. We will need to have some discussion about how we slot these officers to ensure they are employed in a meaningful way. A basic problem is that we deal operationally here with IRA affairs in a completely separate compartment from other forms of overseas terrorism, and as I understand your organisation you are in a similar position.

Please get in touch when you are ready so that we can discuss; you will be welcome to stay for lunch.

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No. 143

19 February<sub>19</sub>76

MEMORANDUM

From

M.P.-68-

DAC(SB)

To

ACC

called to see me yesterday afternoon in your absence to discuss the attached draft minutes of the agreements reached between the Commissioner and the Director-General of the Security Service at their meeting here on 16 February.

METR

I agree they are a correct recording of the matters agreed. I reply to sys as in the attached draft letter? Shall

DAC

41 A

A meeting was held at New Scotland Yard on 16 February 1976
between the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis and the
Director General of the Security Service. Sir Robert Mark
was accompanied by Mr C P J Woods (Deputy Commissioner),
Mr J S Wilson (Assistant Commissioner (Crime)) and Mr V S Gilbert
(Deputy Assistant Commissioner Special Branch). The Director
General was accompanied by Messrs J L Jones,

- 2. With a view to improving liaison between the Metropolitan Police and the Security Service, it was agreed as follows:
  - a. that the Security Service would appoint a

    'liaison officer' with the Metropolitan Police

    Special Branch.

He would have access to an office in Special Branch which he would visit frequently.

- b. that twice yearly informal conferences would be held, attended by officers of the Metropolitan Police Special Branch and officers of the Security Service, in order to discuss topics of mutual interest and current concern;
- c. that selected officers of the Metropolitan

  Police would be nominated to attend the

  two-day presentations arranged by the

  Security Service for senior police officers;

d. that arrangements would be made for the attachment of an officer of the Security Service for duty with the Metropolitan Police Special Branch to concentrate on terrorist, including Irish, affairs and for the attachment of a Metropolitan Police Special Branch Officer to F Branch of the Security Service to study terrorism and Irish Protestant affairs.

The period of such an attachment would normally be a period of years.