

S.B. No.

361/83/15

Registration 24 / / 83

Former Papers

POLITICAL EXTREMISM AND THE CAMPAIGN FOR POLICE  
ACCOUNTABILITY WITHIN THE METROPOLITAN  
POLICE DISTRICT

wards Section should be notified if this file is passed direct to  
er officer or if any file is attached to it or detached from it.

R.B.F. Markings only

Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
24.1.83	<del>CL5</del>	27.7.84		
25/1/83	<del>CL5</del>	25/1/84		
27.1.83	<del>CL5</del>	31/1/84		
1/2	<del>CL5</del>	1/2/85		
2 <sup>2</sup> /3/83	<del>CL5</del>	21.6.85		
13.5.83	<del>CL5</del>	21.10.85		
13.8.83	<del>CL5</del>	21.6.85		
	<del>CL5</del>	25/7/85		
	<del>CL5</del>	18.7.85		
	<del>CL5</del>	21.7.86		
	<del>CL5</del>	7.8.86		
19.5.83	<del>CL5</del>	26.8.87		
10/1/83	<del>CL5</del>	28/1/89		
21.7.83	<del>CL5</del>	6/11/87		
25.7.83	<del>CL5</del>	21/1/87		
11/1/83	<del>CL5</del>	21.9.87		
21.9.83	<del>CL5</del>	22/7/87		
21.11.83	<del>CL5</del>	11/4/87		
21.12.83	<del>CL5</del>	21/1/87		

T.M.A.	
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For Authority to P.A.



1.

Special Branch report ..... 1A

Commander 'Ops':

1. As you are aware, DI [redacted] <sup>[11]</sup> was recently briefed to monitor and report on the Campaign for Police Accountability throughout the Metropolitan Police District. He clearly devoted considerable energy and enthusiasm to the task and the report here incorporates a wealth of material, some of which is obviously not available from any other source.

2. The report itself points to a potentially disturbing trend for it illustrates that the GLC Police Committee, the body directing the whole campaign, has undisguised plans to secure the ultimate political control of the Metropolitan Police Force and that, to this end, it has marshalled a large number of individuals to report on police activity, some of whom are known political extremists. The various groups employed in this campaign are known to be still growing and DI [redacted] <sup>[12]</sup> will continue his watching brief.

3. In the meantime, sufficient copies of this report have been prepared for distribution to the Commissioner, ACA, ACC, Home Office and the Security Service. However, it may well be that DAC'A' (Support) and Commander A7 will require a sight of the document. You may wish to consider the whole question of distribution with DAC.

COSB  
25/1/1983

[redacted] <sup>[13]</sup>  
W I Greenup  
A/CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT

2.

DAC

Do you agree distribution of this most comprehensive report as at /3 above?

SB 26.1.83

*[Signature]*  
Commander

AC'C'

The report at 1A is I think an important one and a copy (number 02) is included for the Commissioner. As more extremist-dominated groups become established, anti-police campaigns on various Districts will become better orchestrated and disorders similar to those on 'G' District recently may be fomented.

I am sending copies separately to AC'A' for himself and his senior 'A' Department officers who should find the content useful when dealing with or countering these 'police accountability' groups.

I also propose to send copies to Home Office and Box 500.

COSB  
27.1.83

C V Hewett  
DAC'C' (SB)

4

Copy memo to Commissioner forwarding  
Copy No.2 of SB report ..... 4A

14

5

DACC(SB) (thro Commissioner)

The report is an excellent piece of work, and a copy has been handed to the Commissioner.

We spoke and I understand the Home Office numbered copy has been handed to Mr Hayden Phillips against his signature.

1.2.83.

AC'C'

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Minute Sheet No. TWO

6. *clm 2/3*

Director of Information [15]

At the meeting of Assistant Commissioners held on 1.2.83 the Commissioner directed that this report be submitted to you. This file is forwarded accordingly. I have consulted DAC 'SB'.

[16]

2.2.83.

David Veness Det. Supt.  
Staff Officer to Deputy Commissioner

7.

Copy memo to AC'A' -7A

Copy letter to Home Office -7B

Copy letter to Box 500 -7C

8.

Distribution list and receipts -8A-B

9.

Letter from Box 500 -9A

[18] Seen by DAC and Chief Supt. Kneale.

✓ SB(R): Now for PA. Indexing is not necessary.

SB.  
17-2-83

[19]  
W.I. Greenup  
for Chief Supt.

10.

Copy letter to G H Phillips, Home Office ..... 10A

20

11.

Chief Superintendent 'C' Squad

20

In the light of the Commissioner's (and his senior officers') need to be kept informed of future developments, the DAC and I have discussed the SB position about these monitoring groups. It is clear that the Branch, in conjunction with the Security Service, is the only department capable of pursuing further enquiries. It is obvious that these groups are interested only in our faults and that a power base is being built from which attacks on the police can be launched. In these circumstances it is right that our senior officers should be briefed in order that they can adequately respond to criticism. These views were expressed by the Commissioner at his Conference with Commanders on 25th March last. There is also a very important public order aspect.

Therefore, will you please keep the position up-dated and submit future reports for action to myself or direct to the DAC in my absence.

COSB  
28.3.83

*J. Wilson*  
J Wilson  
Commander

21

12.

*Supr. Greeny to see a to arrange  
action as above*

*(2) PA.  
852863*

*[Handwritten signature]*

13.

*Folio 1A has been indexed and noted by special arrangement.*

PA  
SB. 15/83

22

*A/D.S.1*

14.

Copy of Minutes from A7 Branch  
unregistered correspondence ..... 14A

Commander Ops

1. An informal meeting took place on Tuesday, 13th November 1984, between Superintendent [redacted] <sup>23</sup> currently attached to A7 Branch, Detective Superintendent [redacted] <sup>24</sup> and myself. Superintendent [redacted] <sup>25</sup> explained that he has been co-opted by A7 to organise the establishment of a Support Unit within that Branch to collate and disseminate within the Force information relating to the activities of, and those involved in, Police Monitoring Groups.

2. You will see from the copy minutes attached that the proposal that this Force should take a more positive stance against the more destructive aspects of these organisations originates from Commander TAYLOR of 'G' District and has the full support of DAC 'A' (Support) and the Director of Information. The latter sets out the arguments very lucidly at minute 17. It is perhaps unfortunate that no official approach has been made to seek the views of Special Branch on this subject and it would seem that the meeting proposed in the correspondence will take place without our representation. Superintendent [redacted] <sup>26</sup> immediate concern was to seek our view as to the manpower which would be required to establish and maintain a monitoring unit for such a purpose.

3. I was reluctant to offer any firm advice on this matter as it was obvious that little thought has yet been given to the exact nature of the task to be undertaken. Our discussion, however, did serve to underline the undoubted benefits which would accrue to the Force as a whole from the availability of such a pool of information. Police officers called upon to join in discussions, interviews etc with one or more of the personalities involved in these groups would be able to receive a comprehensive briefing concerning the latter's particular stance on the issues concerned, details of previously published material and other background information which would enable this force to be represented in the most professional manner possible.

4. Subsequent discussions within 'C' Squad regarding the degree of involvement of Special Branch in this venture have

...../.....

[REDACTED]

convinced me that this is indeed a task for A7. The value of such a service would be greatly reduced if the source or nature of some of the data held precluded or threw any doubt upon the manner in which it could be used. A comprehensive library/index compiled by A7 from the numerous overt sources available would avoid such problems and would suffer little from the absence of our specialised input. We would of course liaise closely with the new unit and periodically use its material to up-date the report at 1A. In the light of the reservations expressed at 10A on these papers, however, any future material produced by this Branch would be circulated only to very senior officers of the force and Box 500.

5. The staffing of the A7 Unit is mentioned at Minute 18 and it does seem that the proposed system will depend for its success upon the quality of personnel selected. The inclusion of an officer with the particular skills for which this Branch is justly famous would be of considerable benefit and, if the necessary augmentation is forthcoming, it may be that the interests of both A7 and Special Branch would be well served by the offer of an experienced Detective Inspector to help staff the Unit. The presence of such an officer in A8 Branch, to name but one example, has long proved the value of close liaison and I see no reason why close links with A7 Branch would not be equally successful.

6. Perhaps you would care to discuss this whole matter with DAC whilst the A7 plans take shape.

SC  
COSB 22.11.84

[27]  
[REDACTED]  
W.I. Greenup

Detective Chief Superintendent

15.

DAC

1. Please see minute 14.
2. Chief Supt 'C' draws attention to proposals in A7 and P Department to set up some kind of information bank on which local police and P Department can draw to assist them in refuting some of the attacks made on police by monitoring groups.

.../...

[REDACTED]

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Minute  
Sheet No. FOUR

15 cont'd

3. At folio 14A is a copy minute sheet from OG 11/83/20 and minute 17 thereon reports a meeting between Commander G, Head of News, APPO 3, Supt [REDACTED] A7 and Director of Information. I have marked those parts which I consider particularly relevant insofar as SB is concerned. At 'A' - Director of Information talks about "better collation of intelligence on an MPD wide basis, about monitoring groups". In my view this would be much better stated as collation of "available information". Talk of intelligence in this context is likely to give rise to unnecessary problems if it leaks to the press or public.
4. At 'B' the question is raised as how best to use SB material. This must be a matter for us, depending on the source, and not for the Director of Information.
5. At 'C' - there is a proposal to "inform the Force" by "perhaps confidential memorandum". I do not see how the force can be informed and yet the information remain confidential. In any event to collect the sort of information suggested would, in my view, be a delicate operation even for SB (and might be exceeding our remit) and would be even more questionable if done by others.
6. At 'D' - there is set out the proposed role of 'P' Department which would be tenable in handling overt information but which might give rise to problems if dealing with covert intelligence in the same way.
7. At 'E' - there is a suggestion that SB might house the unit.
8. In minute 18 on the same minute sheet the then Commander of A7 states an urgent need for a monitoring unit, claims it should be in A7 and indicates that A7 could not accept the task without the necessary staff.
9. In minute 19 on the same papers DAC'A'(Ops) directs Commander A7 to set up a meeting, to be attended by DAC'A'(Ops), P Department and A7, to decide how to proceed so that the Force can make a statement, for dissemination within and without the Force, on the police attitude to control, accountability and consultation and how to give central support to District Commanders to counter the efforts of police monitoring groups.
10. Your letter to HO dated 4th May 1983 at 10A on this file is relevant when considering these matters.
11. Special Branch became aware of what was planned only because Supt [REDACTED] of A7 who had been tasked to establish a support unit in A7, sought the advice of 'C' Squad as to what manpower would be required to establish and maintain the unit.

.../...



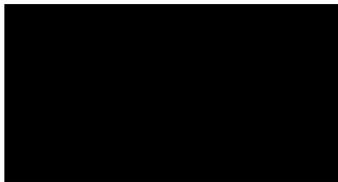
12. I recognise that A Department sees a need to set up a unit to assist in answering criticism of police; I agree with Chief Supt C that such a unit should not be in SB; I concede that the unit might obtain information which would be of interest to SB and that we might make use of the unit for our own purposes. Special Branch would of course pass to the unit any relevant material which was obtained from overt sources. However, I am quite convinced that the unit should restrict itself to gathering information from overt sources only. The gathering of covert intelligence should not be attempted and in any case such information could not be used in the way envisaged by A and P Departments.

13. I am concerned that the proposals to set up such a unit could be taken so far without the advice of Special Branch and feel that it might be helpful to Director of Information and DAC'A'(Ops) if they were to receive some guidance from yourself as to the pitfalls that might lie in their way if the project is not handled very carefully.

14. I am opposed to the suggestion in para 5 of minute 14 above that SB should provide an experienced Det. Inspector for the Unit because (a) we do not have the staff, (b) if overt sources of information are to be tapped, SB skills would not be required, and (c) if covert sources are to be used, SB should not be involved.

15. In conclusion, it may be pertinent to question whether such a unit is necessary when District Information Units already exist, reporting to A Department - information of use in the context envisaged could be dealt with by adapting the existing framework.

30



COSB  
4.12.84

P Phelan  
Commander (Ops)

16.

Commander Ops

1. I agree with your reasoning here. The excellent 'C' Squad paper at 1A set out the background of the monitoring (etc) groups as we saw them then, and we need to report any significant developments to the senior officers who need to know. However, this subject is fraught with problems and we must take care not to stray beyond the new guidelines for Special Branches.

.../...



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Minute Sheet No. FIVE

16 cont'd

2. I am taking up the suggestion in paragraph 13 of your minute and will deal with this on OG 11/83/201.

*(But am unable to trace origin of 14A)*

C V Hewett  
DAC 'C' (SB)

COSB  
12.12.84

31



*Ch Supt 'C'*

*To see please  
P.A.*

17.



P. Phelan

*Cdr (Ops)*

*SB. 13<sup>12</sup>-84*

18.

*copy minute for OS 11/83/201 - 18A*

*SMA [34] [33] to see, pe & arrange  
for AT&T [35] to closely  
supervise the up-dating of 1A as  
discussed*

*S.*

*31-12-84*



W.I. Greenup

*W.I. Greenup*



DAC to see, please

Commander 'Ops':

1. The task to be undertaken by this new A7 unit is a difficult but valuable one and we should provide every assistance possible within our terms of reference. What must always be borne in mind, however, is that the information supplied to A7(4) to assist them to brief senior officers must be wholly accurate and freely attributable to overt sources. For these reasons all exchanges must be closely supervised and liaison should be limited to DI and above, not to DS level as suggested by DI [39]. In addition, it is clearly imperative to maintain a precise record of what in fact is passed to A7 and in this context it may well be that a proforma could be brought into use which would act as a practical means of exchanging and recording information - a duplicate copy could be retained in the Branch. Therefore:-

- (a) [40] [41] and DI [42] [43] to see please and to explore further the practicalities of a two way flow of information with A7(4), noting that liaison should not be passed to DS level.
- (b) [44] SB(R) please open 'secret pink' file entitled "Police Monitoring Groups: Special Branch Liaison with A7(4)", place a copy of 19A thereon and return to me.

COSB  
19/6/1985

[45]  
W I GREENUP  
CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT

DI [46] *not for contribution of*  
*other as in - 18/9 report in*  
*due course*

SB.  
05-6-84

[47]  
W.I. Greenup



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Minute Sheet No. Six

21,

New PA

SB,  
12.286.

48

[Redacted] *ster*  
*p. Chief/Sup.*