



ASSOCIATION OF CHIEF POLICE OFFICERS
OF ENGLAND, WALES AND NORTHERN IRELAND
CRIME COMMITTEE

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[REDACTED]
26th September 1984

Dear Sir [REDACTED]

REVIEW OF GUIDELINES FOR SPECIAL BRANCHES:

In my letter to you of the 24th August 1984 in answer to yours of the 13th of that month, I said that Mr Maurice Buck, Secretary of A.C.P.O. Crime Committee would be writing to you after the 5th September to let you know the outcome of the Crime Committee discussions on the above subject. You will by now have received a letter from Mr Buck, but subsequent to our Crime Committee Meeting I received a letter from Mr David Hall, Chief Constable of Humberside, in which he expresses the view that one area of the terms of reference needed clarifying.

I think I can do no better than pass to you the relevant part of his letter which is as follows:-

"The Home Office Guidelines now produced follow the previous terms of reference very closely and it is difficult to see how they differ, except in wording, the meaning remaining the same.

One notable variation however relates to the investigation of subversive organisations or individuals.

Whereas the previous terms of reference included the collecting, processing and recording of information about subversive or potentially subversive organisations or individuals, no mention is made of the latter in the current guidelines. Without such scope as provided by the former terms of reference it is difficult to know how Special Branches are ever going to detect new subversive organisations coming to light.

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This has, to my mind, always been a 'grey' area and one which needs clarifying."

In order to save extra correspondence, I have forwarded a copy of this letter to Mr Buck for his records and told Mr Hall that I shall pass on his points to you. I would be grateful if you would take them into account when considering any other comments which have been made on the draft of the new Guidelines.

Yours sincerely,

Yeter C. ...

Chairman

