

**Association of Chief
Police Officers** of England,
Wales and Northern Ireland
CRIME COMMITTEE



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Our ref ACPO/CRIME/50/3

Please ask for

Your ref

Date 24th September, 1984

Dear

Mr. Harrington,

Review of Guidelines for Special Branches

I refer to the letter dated 13th August to Peter Imbert from [REDACTED], which enclosed for consideration the latest draft of the revised guidelines and covering letter to Chief Officers of Police.

The revised drafts have now been considered and - subject to the comments on the enclosed schedule - have been generally welcomed for providing a positive and balanced set of guidelines.

I have forwarded a copy of this letter to Peter Imbert, and if you think I can help further please let me know.

Yours *sincerely,*

Maurice Buck
M. Buck
Chief Constable

REVIEW OF GUIDELINES FOR SPECIAL BRANCHES

A.C.P.O. Crime Committee Comment on Revised Draft

1. It is suggested that more emphasis could be included on the amount of time spent by Special Branch officers investigating nationally inspired terrorism, e.g. the current Libyan activities. Reference to the workload carried by Special Branch officers in investigating these activities might go some way to counter the arguments of those who continually try to undermine Special Branch work by making false accusations that they spend most of their time on under-cover intelligence work directed at particular political parties or organisations.

2. The wording of paragraph 9 implies that it is always Special Branch officers who provide armed personal protection. However, this is not always the case.

Inserting the word 'may' before the word 'provide' would more accurately reflect the policy of some police forces whereby armed personal protection duties are carried out by other specialised departments of police forces.