



Chief Constable's Office,
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K. G. OXFORD, C.B.E., Q.P.M.

16th. September, 1983.

Dear Sir Mr [Redacted]

Terms of Reference of Special Branches

I refer to your letter dated 14th. July, and more particularly to the enclosure with a suggested draft of the sort of response I might give to my Police Authority. Thank you for your help. I used your draft, but inserted various blanks that relate to finance and our system for dealing with racial attacks.

In consequence, I submitted a report to my Police Authority on 6th. September, and I enclose a copy which you will see adhered very closely to your suggestions. But as anticipated, a storm began to brew. There was some emotive reporting in the press the day before the Police Authority Meeting, when a particular member indulged in some political rhetoric, with which I am sure you are so familiar, that has come from other like Authorities that are highly critical of Special Branch activities.

In the event, I was able to dampen the storm that was brewing with the Police Authority, and agreed to consider a further resolution that was resolved by the Authority, but not without some argument from the Conservative and Liberal members and the Magistrates as a whole, who were opposed to the pursuance of the resolution. I enclose a copy of that resolution. I will fill you in with more detail when we next meet on 3rd. October (a revised date from your office), and more sensitive intelligence that has come into my possession since the Police Authority meeting.

I intend to talk to this issue at the next ACPO Council Meeting on 6th. October, in order to alert my colleagues of the possibility of them receiving overtures from their Police Authorities, depending on their political flavour.

Look forward to seeing you,

James Orr
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64
75. Special Branch
(POL/97/83)

The Committee considered a further report of the Chief Constable upon a number of issues relating to the work of the Special Branch.

RESOLVED that this Police Authority, being dissatisfied with the report on the Special Branch called for at the Police Committee meeting on 3rd May, 1983, requests that the Chief Constable provides further information, particularly in relation to -

~~POLICE~~

- (i) the Home Office guidelines on the work of the Special Branch;
- (ii) the criteria used by Merseyside Special Branch for defining "subversive";
- (iii) the number of reports on subversive activities made during 1982, to whom they were made and what action arose from them;
- (iv) the method of and responsibility for evaluating reports;
- (v) the number of reports made in 1982 concerning the activities of trade unionists; and
- (vi) the cost of Special Branch during 1982 analysed by functions,

contained in minute 21(b) of the Police Committee of the 3rd May, 1983 in time for the 1984/85 budget deliberations so that it can carry out its statutory duties and allow for a considered judgement to be made in respect of the allocation of resources to the Special Branch for the 1984/85 financial year.