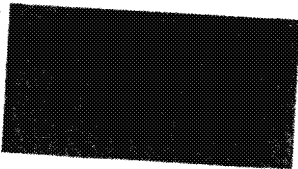


COVERING SECRET



Mr Angel
Mr Heaton

PROVINCIAL SPECIAL BRANCHES

Further to my minute of 16 August, I have now had an opportunity to look rather more closely at the papers Mr Sterlini has unearthed. The most relevant of these are:-

(a) agreed "terms of reference" for Special Branches (attached as Annex A to this note). It would appear from the papers that these were originally drafted by the Security Service following discussions at the Central Conference of Chief Constables in November 1969. They were agreed with ACPO, the Metropolitan Police, HMCI and ourselves but at that time, it was not felt appropriate that they should be circulated under cover either of a Home Office or a Security Service circular. In the event, they were distributed to chief constables by the ACPO "CID" Committee.

If we wish to give further thought to these terms of reference, no doubt it can be done in consultation with interested parties though the problem of who should be responsible for circulation of any advice and how far we should become involved in laying down operational guidelines to police remain.

(b) a note of a meeting held in 1967 to discuss possible duplication in the work of the Security Service and MPSB (annexB). The view then taken appears to have been that arrangements were, on the whole, satisfactory. We do not, I am afraid have very much else on Security Service /SB relations in respect of operations and the obtaining of information but on a "need to know" basis that is not perhaps surprising.



[REDACTED]

OFF/86 1/9
80/89 5/6/11

I have also flagged at "A" and "B" on the attached files the report on the organisation of provincial special branches in 1969 that was conducted by Mr [REDACTED], the then HM Inspector for the Midland Region. Flagged "A" is the final report, which does not have the appendices attached. Flagged "B" is a slightly earlier version which does. The main recommendations related to the need for more precise terms of reference, increased establishments, improved selection and training of officers and better co-ordination. In all these matters, we have however moved forward a good deal since 1969

We also have a few old highly classified and not very helpful files (not attached) concerning the directives to the Security Service.

[REDACTED]

F4 Division
8.9.78

[REDACTED]