

NUMBER

DPE
48

1/8/4

1658

RELATED PAPERS	FILE TITLE
	SECURITY MEASURES SPECIAL BRANCH DUTIES AND FACILITIES.
1 papers require action OTHER the word NOTE should be inserted in the	REVIEW OF SPECIAL BRANCH DUTIES AND LIAISON WITH SECURITY SERVICE.
1	
2	
3	

DESTINATION	DATE	DESTINATION	DATE	DESTINATION	DATE
Sterling FH	27 JUL 1978	M. Angel	16/1		
[REDACTED]	18/8	[REDACTED]	24/2		
M. Angel	8/9	M. Phillips	2/4		
W. Heaton	11/9	[REDACTED]	10/4		
Cotes words	2/10				
Heaton	10/10				
W. Archer	5/10				
[REDACTED]	13/10				
W. Heaton	13/x				
W. Heaton	19/10				
M. Angel (OK)	24/10				
W. Sterling	24/10				
[REDACTED]	25 OCT 1978				
[REDACTED]					

MINUTES

(Additional Minute sheets should be filed on this side)

- ① 13.6 Note re policing in Manchester and Lancashire.
27 JUL 1978
- ① 9-6-78 ~~West~~ West Yorkshire Police forward copy of reply to West York County Council.
- ② 15-6-78 Copy of acknowledgment to C. E. R. Gregory.
- ③ 14-7-78 ^{Minutes} ~~Draft~~ from Mr Heaton to Mr Angel.
- ④ 3.8.78. Note of meeting on 27.7.78 on provincial police affairs ^{by Pound}
- ⑤ " Note of meeting on 31.7.78 on Security Service (Secret)
- ⑥ 15.8.78. Letter from Sys Officer (Security Service) to Sir Robert Armstrong
- ⑦ ⑧ 17.8.78 Notes by Mr [redacted]
- ⑨ 18.8.78 Letter from Mr Heaton to Sys Officer

I have placed within a further note about provincial special branches, which Mr Heaton may wish to see before he attends the ACPO Autumn Conference at Hutton. It seems sensible to wait until after that Conference before discussing how best to pursue the matter.

Mr Angel } 11/9
 Mr Heaton } to see.

[redacted]
 8.9.78

- ⑪ Extract for ACPO CID cases minutes - note on 12.9.78
- ⑫ 9.10.79 Note from Mr Heaton to Mr Angel
- ⑬ 16.10.79 Note from Mr Angel to Mr Heaton
- ⑭ Fact sheet on MPS B included in folder for schools issued by A.7

HMCIC

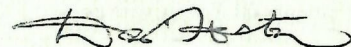
I should be grateful for your views on certain matters dealt with on this file.

The immediate issue is the question of chief constables mentioning the existence of their Special Branch in their annual report - following the debate in the Commons on 24 May last. I was present at the meeting of ACPO CID Committee on 12 September, when Mr Oxford strongly urged the desirability of such a mention. He was supported by Mr Pain and Mr Anderton, as well as by me. Mr Kelland did not commit the Commissioner. Only Mr Bailey opposed the idea, on the grounds that his police authority and public had no need to know and that this was the thin end of too big a wedge.)

The meeting decided to recommend to ACPO Council that chief constables should consider this point, but the minutes (doc.11) simply invite chief officers' attention to the matter. We should now consider whether any further action by us is appropriate (and ~~to~~ do so before I advise Sir Robert Armstrong on the reply to **SyS Officer**'s letter at doc.6).

My own feeling is that it will be difficult to do more than encourage individual chief officers - unless we can work this into a more general circular on Special Branch activities.

This brings me to the question of revised guidance to chief officers, which I raised in my note at doc.3. ~~And~~ You will see from the papers below doc.10 that the current terms of reference for Special Branches were issued in 1970 by ACPO (though they were prepared in close consultation with the Security Service and the Home Office). It seems to me likely that Special Branches will ^{now} come under increasing public scrutiny and questioning, and I think it would be useful if we were able to point to a document which defined the scope and limitations of their work. This would be analogous to the Security Service's charter, which is of course a published document (most readily available in the Denning Report of 1963). I therefore have it in mind to suggest to Sir Robert Armstrong that he invites the Security Service to consider the advantages of producing an up-to-date version of the 1970 terms of reference, suitable for publication. Do you agree that this would be helpful? And in this connection are there any points which you would like to make on the ~~points~~ ^{matters} noted at paragraphs 1e and 2 of my note at doc.3?



(DAVID HEATON)

2 October 1978

I agree that a published "charter" would be helpful. If SyS is concerned that police SB activities being conducted in the "open" will make the Service as a whole more vulnerable, we must ask the Security Service to do more of their own work. The former Commissioner took a strong line in this regard + the Met did much less under his command, without apparent harm. Some activities which seemed important, were dropped. Hence my comment to SyS. I would much prefer a bigger Security Service!!

Chris Hume

1. Mr Andrew ^{MA} _{13/8} *RAK*
2. Sir Robert Armstrong

SyS Officer wrote to you on 15 August (doc 6) on the information which chief constables might give about their Special Branches. My interim reply (doc 9) said in effect that you would reply after the AGPO CID Committee had discussed this on 12 September. At that meeting (extract from minutes at doc 11) they agreed in principle to recommend to chief constables that annual reports should mention the existence and strength of the force Special Branch.

So far so good. But there are various other straws in the wind (some of them noted in doc 3), and it is clear that Special Branches are going to come under increasingly close scrutiny. I have therefore been looking at the latest (1970) guidance given to chief constables on Special Branch activities (see annex to doc 10), and considering whether something up-to-date and possibly overt, analogous to the Security Service's charter, might be useful. Sir Colin Woods (see above) thinks it would. He goes on to advocate Special Branch doing less work for the Security Service (which may be right) and the Security Service consequently expanding (which would probably not be right). But I think a general discussion with the Security Service and HMCIC on this whole area of Special Branch activities, and particularly the work they do for the Security Service, would be useful, and this is the line taken in the draft reply to **SyS Officer** which I have placed opposite.

13 October 1978

David Heaton
(DAVID HEATON)

⑭ PVS note within - 18.10.78

At the next round of discussion on this topic it will be necessary to bring in the Metropolitan Police, either Mr. Kelland or Mr. Bryan. They should attend or be represented at any meeting.

25th October, 1978

A.
G. L. ANGEL

- 25.10.78 Box 500 reply to P.V.S. (Doc 15)
- 27.10.78 note by [redacted] (Doc 16)
- 2.11.78 Cuthi for 'The Times' (Doc 17)
- 3.11.78 H. Heaton to [redacted] (Doc 18)
- ⑰ 7.12.78 Note of meeting with Sir R Armstrong (Secret)
- ⑳ 5.1.79 Amendment to ⑰ (Secret)

- (21) 8.12.78 letter from [redacted] Sys Officer Box 500 to Mr Andrew
with (21A) Box 500 circular of 29.5.74 (Secret)
(21B) Box 500 circular of 16.12.75
- (22) 15.12.78 Note from Mr Heaton to Mr Angel
- (23) 10.1.79 letter from [redacted] Sys Officer Box 500 to Mr Heaton
with draft circular on computerisation of SB records
- (24) 12.1.79 Copy note from Mr Heaton to Mr Dawson, P7
- (25) 12.2.79 Note from Mr Dawson to Mr Heaton
- (26) 15.2.79 Note from Mr Keblet to Mr Rice re SB numbers
- (27) 21.2.79 Copy note from Mr Phillips to Mr Keblet
- (28) 22.2.79 Copy letter from Mr Heaton to [redacted] Sys Officer, Box 500
- (29) 2.4.79 Note from Mr [redacted] to Mr Heaton Phillips
- (30) 5.4.79 Copy letter from PUS to Sir B. Richard, Cab. Office
(Secret UK EYES)
- (31) 25.4.79 Copy note from [redacted] to Mr Heaton
- (32) 10.5.79 Extract from New Society
- (33) 8.79 Extract from the Leveller
- (34) Extracts from 1978 Annual Reports of Chief Constables
containing references to Special Branch

A number of

The draft proposals relating to the work of Special Branches have been mooted in papers on this file:

- a. The disclosure to the public of
 - i. the number of Special Branch officers;
 - ii. Special Branches terms of reference;
- b. The giving of more detailed guidance to Special Branches; and
- c. Examining the work done by Special Branches for the Security Service.

2. The Home Office has probably done as much as can be on a.i. According to the Leveller, of 43 annual reports received from chief constables, 11 give figures of the number of Special Branch officers in the force concerned. It is to be hoped that this will encourage other chief constables to give figures in next year's annual reports.

3. As to a.ii., the idea of publishing Special Branch's terms of reference was raised by Sir Robert Armstrong in a letter of 18 October 1978 (doc 14) to [Sys Officer] of the Security Service who, in his reply (doc 15), did not disagree with the suggestion.

4. Consideration of possible publication of Special Branch's terms of reference led to a meeting on 7 December 1978 between Sir Robert Armstrong and [Sys Officer] (doc 19) at which Sir Robert Armstrong suggested that we should look again at the confidential terms of reference agreed in 1970 by the ACPO CID Committee and subsequent Security Service circulars, with a view to consolidating, modifying and bringing them up to date.

5. The question of the work which Special Branches do for the Security Service was raised by HMCIC who took the view that the Security Service sought from Special Branches more information than is really needed (doc 3). Mr Heaton suggested in his briefing note (doc 18) for the meeting on 7 December that the information provided by Special Branches to the Security Service should be evaluated and an assessment made of the implications of dropping or curtailing it. Following the meeting, it was agreed that before deciding that such an exercise was worthwhile, we should undertake consolidation of the terms of reference referred to in paragraph 4 above, notwithstanding that any such guidance necessarily begs the question of how much Special Branches should do for the Security Service.

6. As a first step, I have placed within a draft of a note on Special Branches which we might look at with a view to publication. Before canvassing this or any other draft more widely, it seems sensible to take the views of the MPSB and the Security Service. I have accordingly placed within a draft letter to DAC Bryan (copies to Security Service and HMCIC). This goes into some detail on the background to this exercise because the police have not so far been involved in meetings or correspondence. If MPSB and the Security Service agree that it would be worth publishing a document such as this, we shall then need to consult widely. ACPO will have to be among the first we consult, but SHHD and NIO also need to be brought in because any document published in England and Wales will naturally lead to questions being asked about Special Branches in Scotland and Northern Ireland. All consultations will have to be on the basis that Ministerial approval will have to be sought before anything can in fact be published. more

7. Meanwhile I propose to press on with the consolidation of terms of reference and guidance referred to in paragraph 4. It will be essential to consult the Security Service, MPSB and ACPO, and probably desirable also to consult NIO and SHHD, although we need not and could not expect them necessarily to agree on a text. A draft letter to Mr Bryan forewarns him of this.

7. Given the general aim of improving Special Branches 'sensitivity', Mr Phillips has suggested that attention might also be paid to the training which Special Branch officers receive. The draft touches on this as well.

- ? 1. Proceed as proposed in paragraphs 6 and 7;
2. Write as in draft within to DAC Bryan MPSB;
3. Send note as within to HMCIC.

I think it would be best to go to the police first, and separately, and then to the Security Service. otherwise as proposed.

Mr 2078

- to DAC Bryan & HMCIC
- (35) 20.8.79: Mr. Phillips wrote as slightly amended with
 (36) *Chm Howell*
 20.8.79
- (37) 6.9.79 letter from D.A.C. Rayson + enc.
- (38) 18.9.79 Note from HMCIC to Mr Phillips with
 (38a) Note by Mr Pearce on Post3 Units.

We have now received comments from DAC Bryan (doc 37) and HMCIC (doc 38) on Mr Phillips' letter of 20 August, ^{and} the draft note about Special Branches enclosed with it (doc 35). Mr Bryan and Mr Crane are agreed that :

- a) new terms of reference for Special Branches should be circulated to chief officers;
- b) ACFO CID committee should be brought in to the consultations on these terms of reference;
- c) the disadvantages of publishing a document about Special Branches outweigh the advantages.

In the face of this opposition to publication it would seem sensible to put the draft note about Special Branches, which was written for publication, on one side for the time being.

2. As to new terms of reference, I have placed within a rough draft of a possible document. This consists mainly of a re-vamping of the old terms of reference (issued in ~~January~~ ^{July} 1970) with the addition of pieces taken from two Security Service circulars to chief officers, issued in May 1974 and December 1975 (docs 21a and 21b). The next step would seem to be to circulate this draft to Mr Bryan, Mr Crane and **Sys Officer** (Security Service) for their comments before approaching the ACFO CID committee.
3. The letter of 20 August also touched on the question of training. The position is that MPSB run six Initial training courses and two Senior training courses annually. Twenty four provincial and four MPSB officers attend each one of these courses which means that 224 Special Branch officers receive training every year. Mr Crane considers that this training is effective. However, there is no guarantee that every Special Branch officer has received training, nor is there any guarantee that those returning to Special Branch work after a period of absence will go on refresher courses.

A

4. A more thorough training programme might be to require each new entrant to the Special Branch to go on attachment to MPSB to work along side experienced Special Branch officers and to take part in an initial training course. The period of attachment (including the training course) might be anything from two to six months. There ~~are~~ ^{should} then ~~be~~ be refresher courses for those who have not been involved in Special Branch work for some time and finally there should be courses for the heads of Special Branches.
5. HMCIC is to discuss with HMIS on 2 October the possibility of arranging systematic planned inspection of all HQ Special Branch units and selected port units. This inspection can, I am sure, be nothing but good and we should support it. If it reveals that there are training deficiencies then we can set about devising a training programme perhaps on the lines of that outlined above. As to the port units I have minuted separately on POL/75 576/2/1.

? Write as within to Mr Bryan, Sys Officer and HMCIC.

Phillipa Drew

26.9.79

I agree that publication of Terms of Reference should not, at this stage be proposed and so the next step is to seek agreement on revised, but confidential, Terms of Reference. Part of these is within. There are two paras - 12 and 14. That might give rise to problems. For example, I am not sure how important para 12, on Commonwealth Imports, now is. If S.B.'s could be relieved of this task it might be helpful. Para 14, Protection, refers to cooperation with the Metropolitan Police rather than MPSB and thus sidesteps any issue of the recent reorganisation at N.S.Y. On balance I doubt whether this para will cause difficulty.

∴ subject to agreement of the draft

? copy sent to Mr Bryan Sys Officer & HMCIC.

Mr Phillips *Phillips*
AP 1/10.

Thank you. I appreciate the work that has been done in combining the 1970 terms of reference proper with the supporting annexe, but I am afraid the present draft does not distinguish clearly enough between the items of the terms of reference and the explanatory comment (and may be my reaction to this was coloured by the two paragraphs numbered 2 at the beginning). I think we need to have the comments indented. I also think it would be clearer if there was no underlining, except in the side headings. And, although this purports to be a consolidation exercise, I think the words I have square

/bracketed

bracketed could safely be omitted. Finally I think that industrial disputes (paragraph 6) deserve a separate paragraph.

2. If the draft can be revised in this way I will write to **Sys Officer** etc as proposed. I intend to draw his attention to the two phrases I have ballooned in pencil, which seem to me at least questionable.

David Heaton

(DAVID HEATON)

11 October 1979

I have revised the draft in the way suggested. I have also separated the functions relating to demonstrations and industrial disputes (old para. 6) and added a comment to the ~~function~~ one about demonstrations. I suggest that old para 9 (firearms and explosives) be moved to the end under the heading 'Other functions' as it is not a function undertaken solely on behalf of MPSB. I ~~ex~~ have changed 'tasks' to 'functions' ~~then~~ in two sub-head^{ing}. Finally, if questions are to be asked about the two phrases ballooned in paras 4 and 5 I suggest we might also question the use of the words 'primarily political' in the definition of industrial militancy.

? write as within to **Sys Officer**, Mr Bayan + Anne

Phillipa Drew

23/10/79
I agree that there are three questionable phrases, and have amended the draft letter to **Sys Officer** accordingly. It also seems to me, on reflection, with bringing the 'protection' function forward, this is an increasingly demanding area and not simply just another subsidiary function. It also gives a little more weight to the tasks ~~which~~ which SB's initiate as opposed to those carried out on behalf of others.

? as proposed

MP 201

- (39) 2.10.79 minutes of meeting of HMs & Heads of Divisions
- (40) 11.79 Revised draft terms of reference for SRs.
- (41) 1.11.79 Mr Heaton / [redacted] Box 500
- (42) 1.11.79 Mr Heaton / HMCIC
- (43) 2.11.79 Mr Phillips / DAC Bayam
- (44) 2.11.79 HMCIC / Mr ~~Heaton~~ Phillips
- (45) 22.11.79 HMCIC / Mr Heaton
- (46) 23.11.79 DAC Bayam / Mr Phillips
- (47) 14.12.79 Mr Phillips / Mr Heaton
- (48) 18.12.79 Mr Heaton / Mr Phillips
- (49) 6.12.79 [redacted] Box 500 / Mr Heaton
- (50) 21.12.79 [redacted] Box 500 / Mr Heaton
- (51) 18.1.80 HMCIC to Mr Heaton with
 - a. letter of 20.12.80 from [redacted] Sys Officer to HMCIC
 - b. extracts from A.R. by CES of Herts side + cat. members
 - c. extract from HMs meeting 4.7.78

(52) 1.2.80 Mr Heaton to HMCIC

Following Mr Heaton's note of 1 February (doc 52) I have placed within a draft reply to [redacted] Sys Officer's letter of 6 December (doc 49). I am sorry that further work on S.B. terms of reference (which would enable us to reply to the substance of [redacted] Sys Officer letter) has been held up because of pressure of other work.

2. Mr Heaton may like to clear the draft letter to Mr Jones with HMCIC.

? Send note as written to HMCIC with draft letter to [redacted] Sys Officer

[redacted] Phillipa Drew

7/2/80

- 1. Mr ~~Heaton~~ ^{Moore} for obs
- 2. Mr Phillips M 132
- 3. Mr Heaton

Thank you with HMCIC's agreement I have written to [redacted] Sys Officer

