

Sr. James Waddell

Attached is the second instalment of the record of the meeting the Home Secretary had with certain Labour Members of Parliament regarding the Special Branch on 30th April. I should be grateful if you would consider carefully the points made and let the Home Secretary have a note of the extent to which there is any truth in the views expressed or implied about the conduct of the Special Branch. In the light of your comments, the Home Secretary will be able to decide whether he should write to Mr. Prescott or how otherwise he should indicate the conclusion of his consideration of the points raised. If it is possible to give a firm denial, e.g. on the extent to which information collected by the Special Branch is or has been made available to members of trade unions or of management, this might provide a good basis for writing. You and I discussed today the importance of establishing the exact position regarding the attention given by the Special Branch to trade unions in order to ensure that Ministers do not say anything misleading on the topic. It occurs to me that there are various types of activity which might be regarded as infiltration. It is conceivable that running an informant in an organisation might be regarded as infiltration, and so I think we need to give the Home Secretary fairly specific information about the kind of activity that goes on.



Private Secretary

Private Office

2.5.74.

