

1972

5

1st March, 1967

QPS/06 1/3/7

I mentioned to the Commissioner that the Home Secretary noticed in the report on the work of the Special Branch during 1966 a good deal of material about Communists, Trotskyists and similar organisations. He has from time to time been kept informed on these matters by the Security Service and asked me whether there had been any recent review to ensure that the area of responsibility of Special Branch and the Security Service was clearly defined and that there was no risk of duplication in the work of the two organisations.

I said that I had no ground for supposing that there was any duplication, but I had to say that this was not a matter which had been looked at very recently; and the Home Secretary said that, although he did not want any formal inquiry, he would be grateful if the Home Office could discuss with the two organisations whether there were any problems arising in this context. He was quite prepared to find that at the end of the day he would be told that everything was in order, but he nevertheless thought that the position could with advantage be looked at.

As I explained to the Commissioner, I have accordingly asked Waddell to arrange this discussion. It would probably take only two or three meetings; I hope that you would come, bringing Ferguson-Smith and anyone else you would like to have with you.

I am writing in similar terms to Sys Officer.

The next step will be for Waddell to get into direct touch with you.

(sd) Philip Allen

P. K. Brodie, Esq., O.B.E.