

TOP SECRET

File  
1714

11th August, 1972

CABINET OFFICE  
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FILING INSTRUCTIONS  
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We had a word yesterday about the unit which the Prime Minister has directed should be constituted to improve the co-ordination of intelligence on subversion in public life and to provide regular and comprehensive reviews on this subject for Ministers. You wrote to me about this on 3rd August.

We were inclined to think that the terms of reference for the unit should be -

"To supervise and direct the collection of intelligence about threats to the internal security of Great Britain arising from subversive activities, particularly in industry; and to make regular reports to the Ministers concerned".

The unit would be under Home Office chairmanship and would include representatives of the Department of Employment, the Security Service, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (IRD), the Scottish Office, the Cabinet Office and the Metropolitan Special Branch; and it might be necessary on occasion to invite representation from the Department of Education and Science. You said that Jimmy Waddell could undertake the task of being Chairman; and you kindly agreed to consult Denis Barnes about Department of Employment representation and to ask the Head of Special Branch to be a member. The Ministers to whom the unit would report and their regular assessments would be circulated would be the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, the Secretary of State for Defence (not in his Departmental capacity), the Home Secretary, the Secretary of State for Employment and - presumably? - the Secretary of State for Scotland.

We also had a preliminary discussion about the best way to organise the unit's work. I think you agreed with my suggestion that, while it would not form part of the existing JIC structure, it might best work on the lines of JIC(A) and JIC(B) to the extent that the Security Service and the Department of Employment would make available officials to draft preliminary assessments, which could then be considered at meetings of the unit preliminary to the production of an approved document for circulation to the Ministers indicated above. You thought it might be possible to provide a Home Office Secretary

/for

Sir Philip Allen, GCB

for the unit; and he could be the man who would provide the necessary link between those producing the preliminary assessment and the unit proper, arranging meetings and circulating papers and so on. I think that he might find it useful to work in conjunction with the JIC Secretariat for this limited purpose, since they are accustomed to dealing with the controlled distribution of sensitive paper of this kind; and, if this would be acceptable, we will arrange accordingly.

If you could begin to make dispositions on this basis and consult Denis Barnes and the Head of Special Branch - and if Symonds, to whom I am sending a copy of this letter, could also say who will be the Security Service member or members of the unit and who will be MI5's "desk" man - I will let you know the name of the Cabinet Office representative; and we could perhaps think in terms of the unit holding a fairly early meeting to look at a first Department of Employment/Security Service assessment. As you know I hope to go on leave for a fortnight from tomorrow night; but I hope that Jimmy Waddell may be able to set about commissioning a first "product" in advance of the necessary machinery being formally constituted. Any immediate enquiries in my absence could be referred to Brian Norbury.

BURKE TREND

Watt. M.  
Mrs. Agnes  
What he should  
be Cabinet Office  
rep.