

APPENDIX A

EXTRACTS FROM THE COMMISSIONER'S ANNUAL REPORTS: THE POLICING OF PUBLIC ORDER IN LONDON, 1968-1982

1. The Annual Reports of the Commissioner in the period from 1968 to 1982 deal with the principal challenges the MPS faced in policing the capital. Individually, they reveal that every year one of those challenges was public order. The following extracts may assist the Inquiry to understand the work of the SDS in the wider context of the MPS as a whole. Together, they illustrate:
 - a. How the Commissioner's aim was to preserve the peace by finding the right balance between protecting the rights of ordinary citizens on the one hand and the right to demonstrate on the other;
 - b. How the particular challenges of public order changed over the years, and the ebb and flow of the pressures they placed on the MPS as a whole; and,
 - c. How the SDS was only a very small part of the machinery in the MPS that was necessary to preserve the peace on the streets of London.

2. The 1968 Commissioner's Annual Report stated:

Perhaps the most troublesome and persistent manifestation of 1968 was the development of the technique of public protest. Between Spring and Autumn, culminating on 27th October, few weeks passed without some public demonstration or procession which threatened, or regrettably in some cases resulted in actual disorder. Whatever the reason, and many were offered – the war in Vietnam, civil strife in Nigeria, anti-apartheid, Rhodesia, student demands – there was invariably the same underlying motive, a revolt against authority and the establishment signifying social and political unrest. The great majority of people taking part were sincere and pacific but increasingly a militant element came to the fore whether Maoists, Trotskyists, or anarchists who felt that their aims could only be achieved by violence and who hoped that by the hysteria and excitement generated on these occasions they could carry with them many of the uncommitted...

Meticulous planning in the greatest detail is needed in such circumstances and a report by a working party set up at the end of March to study and assess police procedures in relation to public order proved invaluable in the months which followed. As a result, I am glad to confirm that our planning proved effective when tested in actual operation. Understandably there will always be a tendency to err on the side of caution on these occasions and the calls on police manpower to deal with the continuing series of situations have enormous...¹

¹ TNA, Report of the Commissioner of the Police of the Metropolis for the year 1968, MPS-0747803 p. 9.

3. The 1969 Annual Report noted a reduction in violence in demonstrations during the year, along with a greater diversity of causes:

The police service, through the mass media, is inevitably in the limelight at the time of demonstrations. Although the occasions have risen in number, the tendency to violence that was so apparent in 1968 has not been maintained. Fewer people have been involved in individual events and the causes have been more diversified. With sufficient excuse, a hard core of militants will always be present, but generally the demonstrators have been more peacefully inclined.

I think that experience has confirmed that the policy of using traditional methods in dealing with the demonstrations is the right one and in this the police service is supported by the vast majority of the general public. Nevertheless, there is no room for complacency and we must keep under continual review our methods and procedures for dealing with these events. For success, arrangements must be based on adequate manpower, communication and mobility, coupled with flexibility of command.²

4. The Annual Report for the year 1970 stated:

There has been a continuous increase in the number of demonstrations, meetings and processions although the intensity has not been so severe. During the year there were 500 such events which required special police arrangements, each occasion involving between 50 and 2000 police officers.

Often little prior notice was given and there were frequently several operations taking place simultaneously. I am pleased to report that the training and methods which we have developed over the last 3 years have proved successful in preventing serious disorders.

...

In the later months of the year the issues which gave rise to demonstrations concerned almost every aspect of world affairs, and these repercussions were reflected in protests outside the embassies and high commissions of the countries involved. Many additional requests were received for police protection of diplomatic persons and premises.

The number of people involved in individual demonstrations was not large, at the most several thousands, but a minority of determined militants were invariably there, making use of the event to pursue their own aims presenting a threat to public order. Whilst most organisers are genuine in their beliefs, it is unfortunate that some participants judge the success of their protests by the amount of disorder they create.

I have referred before to the need for constant reappraisal of our methods in this sphere of police activity and the working party which determined our policies in 1968 was reconvened for that purpose. Its recommendations have

² TNA, Report of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis for the year 1969, MPS-0747804 p. 10.

further improved the techniques for planning, control and rapid deployment of police units.

...

The officers engaged on public order duties have continued to show the patience, tolerance, tact and restraint that are so essential to the success of our operations, and the fact that most of the threats to public order were contained without serious injury or damage to property provides confirmation that the policy and methods are right for our society. However, it is in this field that the morale of the Force could be most sorely tested. We try to avoid making arrests if the occasion is peaceful but sometimes it is necessary to act firmly to anticipate disorder. At the courts the penalties are often trivial and in defended cases young constables are unreasonably attacked in an attempt to humiliate them. We can stand this and much more provided we can be assured that they have the backing of the courts to uphold law and order on the streets and that those who would abuse the right of peaceful demonstration and the free society this country offers are made to understand that violence does not pay.³

5. The 1971 Annual Report records:

While there has been a slight reduction in the overall number of demonstrations and processions in the streets of central London, the size of individual meetings has increased. In total, over 400 such events necessitated special police arrangements during the year. A major march and rally in February in connection with the Industrial Relations Bill involved the greatest number of persons seen in a single demonstration in central London for many years, approximately 60,000. This event however was well conducted and a few difficulties arose, owing largely to the co-operation and assistance given by the TUC. The main objectives of other demonstrations reflected on the one had the aims and aspirations of the "permissive society" and on the other a desire of some to draw attention to a deterioration in public moral standards. Other causes were the disturbances in Northern Ireland, the conflicts of the Middle East and the war in Bangladesh...⁴

6. The 1972 Annual Report notes that 'the handling of political or trade disputes and demonstrations, counter-terrorist activities (including protection duties) and hooliganism relating to sport and otherwise' was one of the five main problems for the MPS.⁵ As regards to that problem, it stated:

Public order is a matter of constant concern. Not only is it difficult to maintain the nice balance between freedom and restriction - preserving the right of ordinary citizens as well as the right to demonstrate - but there is the continual interference with police duty rosters and entitlement to time off

³ TNA, Report of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis for the year 1970, MPS-0747805 pp. 11 - 12.

⁴ TNA, Report of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis for the year 1971, MPS-0747806 p. 16.

⁵ TNA, Report of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis for the year 1972, MPS-0747807 p. 8.

and the constant strain on the tolerance of police officers in dealing with those who seek to achieve political objectives by coercion and force.

There were 470 major events requiring special police arrangements during the year. Once again the events in Northern Ireland dominated the scene in the early months following the deaths in Londonderry on Saturday 30th January. In the ensuing week a number of protests took place in central London culminating in a large demonstration organized by the Anti-Internment League on Sunday 5th February 1972. After a march to Whitehall in which 6000 people participated the militant mood of the supporters turned to disorder, resulting in the arrest of 128 persons and in 105 police officers, 24 civilians and 11 police horses being injured. The police arrangements involved the deployment of 1743 officers. Three of the organizers were subsequently arrested on warrants for conspiracy to contravene Section 5 of the Public Order Act 1936. After the Aldershot bomb explosion and the reduction in tension in Northern Ireland following "Motorman" the level of public interest appeared to diminish considerably.

The Government's decision to reorganize student unions' management and financial affairs brought about a march to Trafalgar Square on Sunday 23rd January followed by a protest meeting. The subject aroused a genuine interest among students generally as opposed to the usual minority involved in demonstrations unconnected with student affairs. The demonstration was the largest of the year, involving approximately 20,000 members of the National Union of Students. The march was slightly disrupted at one point but the meeting passed off peacefully.

The ever-changing pattern of foreign affairs was, as always, reflected by protest. During the early part of the year Bangladesh supporters demanding the establishment of a sovereign state demonstrated repeatedly (in relatively small numbers) and it was not until official recognition of Bangladesh was given that that the meetings ceased. On Sunday 13th February the Rhodesia Emergency Action Committee expressed their disapproval of an anticipated settlement of the Rhodesia problem by organizing a series of marches culminating in a meeting in Trafalgar Square attended by some 6000 supporters. A subsequent violent confrontation with police outside Rhodesia House ended in disorder; 43 persons were arrested and 27 police officers and 4 members of the public were injured. The Vietnam conflict attracted the usual demonstrations against the United States government in the shape of protest to the American Embassy. Information about other demonstrations which included protests in connection with the expulsion of Asians from Uganda and their admission to this country, entry into the European Economic Community and the introduction of [VAT] is given in Chapter 3.

Industrial unrest in 1972 was widespread and diverse and police were faced with the new phenomena of "mass picketing" and "flying pickets". The strike of miners in February affected policing in London both in controlling various marches and a lobby of Members of Parliament and in dealing with "flying pickets".

...

My officers have displayed tact, forbearance and basic common sense in dealing with demonstrations arising from industrial disputes. There has been no interference with the right to demonstrate but breaches of the law, including threatening behaviour, have been firmly handled...⁶

7. The 1973 Annual Report recorded:

Once again police were heavily engaged in endeavouring to maintain public order in many different kinds of situation and there were 445 major events requiring special police arrangements. The Force had not only to deal with traditional forms of protest by way of meetings, marches and demonstrations, but also to cope with situations clearly showing that disturbing forces which work in an insidious and cowardly way are intent upon damaging the fabric of our society. Bomb attacks of all kinds have added a new dimension to the problem of containing dissent and maintaining public tranquillity.⁷

8. The 1974 Annual Report noted that during that year, 'a number of events served to focus public attention on the discharge by the police of their responsibility for maintaining public order. These included the disorders in Red Lion Square on 15th June and the subsequent inquiry...'⁸

In a situation of increasing economic difficulties at home and changes in the political scene overseas there has been no lessening of the burden borne by police in their efforts to maintain public order. Although the number of events requiring special police attention decreased slightly by comparison with the previous year, from 445 to 406, various militant factions have developed techniques that have been made the control of meetings and demonstrations more difficult...⁹

9. The Annual Report for the year 1975 stated:

Fortunately there were no incidents of the Red Lion Square type during 1975, but the maintenance of public order continued to pose serious problems for the Force because of the drain on manpower. The number of events requiring special police attention was in fact slightly less than in previous years, but the highly controversial issues which inspired many of them, and the organization by opposing factions of deliberately provocative counter demonstrations, were expected to generate such tensions that a greater deployment of officers was required than ever before.

....

Of particular concern during the year was the growing presence in our society of an undercurrent of violence, which on occasions erupted into

⁶ TNA, Report of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis for the year 1972, MPS-0747807 pp. 11 - 13.

⁷ TNA, Report of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis for the year 1973, MPS-0747808 p. 13.

⁸ TNA, Report of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis for the year 1974, MPS-0747809 p. 9.

⁹ TNA, Report of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis for the year 1974, MPS-0747809 p. 13.

outbursts of vicious hooliganism. Innocent people were placed in terror by groups of football supporters who damaged property and caused disturbances in stadia and on public transport and more police than ever before had to be employed in patrolling stadia and surrounding areas...¹⁰

10. The Annual Report for the year 1976 stated:

Unrest arising from economic problems at home and changes in the political scene abroad continued to create problems for the police in the maintenance of public order...¹¹

...

The number of public order events which necessitated special police arrangements during the year totalled 393, compared with 356 in 1975.¹²

11. The Annual Report for the year 1977 stated:

The realities in 1977 were grim indeed. The run of net gains in police manpower recorded in recent years came to an end, and the year saw a reversion to the earlier pattern of wastage outstripping recruitment. This meant that a declining number of police officers were called upon to cope with a higher incidence of crime than ever before... and with the problems of providing the massive presence that was required for the maintenance of public order at scenes of mass picketing and political marches. At some of the scenes, notably outside the Grunwick film processing laboratories at Willesden and in the streets of Lewisham on the occasion of a march by supporters of National Front, the officers on duty were subjected to violence and abuse of an extreme nature. The attacks were withstood with the fortitude and calm forbearance for which the Force is renowned.¹³

...

Public Order

The industrial dispute at the film processing plant of Grunwick Processing Laboratories Ltd at Willesden accounted for much of the police activity in the field of public order during the year. At first the picketing was on a small scale and the daily attendance of a few police officers was all that was necessary. In the summer and autumn however, a series of mass pickets was organised. Contingents of supporters from all over the country, including members of extreme left-wing factions, joined the picket lines, swelling them by many hundreds and at times many thousands of people. Their obvious aim was to discourage non-strikers from passing through their lines by obstruction and intimidation rather than by peaceful persuasion and very large numbers of police had to be deployed to keep the peace. At times as many as 4500 officers were needed. In controlling and containing the situation on each occasion when mass picketing occurred, police were

¹⁰ TNA, Report of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis for the year 1975, MPS-0747810 p. 10.

¹¹ TNA, Report of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis for the year 1976, MPS-0747811 p. 10.

¹² TNA, Report of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis for the year 1976, MPS-0747812 p. 34.

¹³ TNA, Report of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis for the year 1977, MPS-0747813 p. 1.

subject to violence, insult and abuse on a sickening scale and by the end of the year, well over 300 officers had been injured.

The fortitude and restraint with which my officers met the demands of duty outside the Grunwick plant evoked a wave of sympathy and admiration from members of the public. At times, the telephone switchboard at New Scotland Yard was inundated with calls from well-wishers and over 600 letters of appreciation were received, many containing donations to police charities.

The shortcomings of the traditional helmet as a protection against flying missiles became very evident in the course of these events. An improvised model, outwardly similar in appearance but with a special protective lining and a more effective quick release strap, was taken into experimental use soon afterwards.

During the year animosities between political extremists of the left and right intensified. Two particular incidents stand out – National Front marches at Duckett’s Common, Haringey, in April and at Lewisham in August. Both occasions were marked by violence as the police sought to keep rival actions apart and at Lewisham 270 police officers were injured. The tactics employed there by protestors included the use of a wide range of offensive weapons, the throwing of liquid ammonia and concerted attacks with bricks and other missiles. To counter the attacks protective shields were brought into service by police for the first time.¹⁴

12. The Annual Report for the year 1978 stated:

Public order again made heavy demands on manpower throughout the year. Special arrangements had to be made in order to police demonstrations, processions and industrial disputes on more than 750 occasions. Fortunately, there was no recurrence of the mass picketing which was a feature of 1977.

Candidates representing the National Front contested the parliamentary by-elections at Ilford and Brixton. After carefully weighing all the circumstances of the campaign at Ilford I sought your consent to a ban under the Public Order Act 1936. From the 24th February for a period of two months, public processions, other than those of a religious, festive or ceremonial character, were banned within the Metropolitan Police District. The purpose was to restrain those extremists who were deliberately seeking confrontation to further their political ends. The Brixton by-election also fell within the period of the ban. The ban of course did not affect public meetings and large numbers of police were deployed during each by-election to prevent serious disorder. Later in the year three National Front marches took place and, as the circumstances had changed, I decided not to seek prohibition; in the event there was little disorder.

¹⁴ TNA, Report of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis for the year 1977, MPS-0747812 p. 5.

The newly formed Anti-Nazi League linked its cause to the theme of ‘Rock against Racism’ and attracted some 60,000 people in April for a march from Trafalgar Square to Victoria Park in East London. A similar Anti-Nazi League march in September to a festival in Brockwell Park, SE24 also drew many young people.

...

Manpower was also stretched by the need to provide a police presence at more than 300 industrial disputes during the year. Special demands were made upon the Force by two disputes in particular...

The cost to the community of policing public order events was high. It is not to be measured in money terms only, although the cost of police employed at the Notting Hill carnival alone came to around £600,000 but the event also involved the diversion of thousands of police officers from the areas they normally serve. It is the citizens of London who suffer. They should know the burden that the policing of public order events imposes upon them and be aware of the serious reduction in policing of other areas that is thereby involved.

That the year passed without a major breakdown of public order, despite having to police an unprecedented number of events, is due in no small measure to the diligence and forbearance of Metropolitan Police officers throughout the year, weekend after weekend. Thanks are due not just to them and the members of the civilian staff who are also involved, but to their wives and families who withstand the disruption and uncertainty with equal fortitude.¹⁵

...

Demonstrations

The continuing polarisation of political opinion, marked by the antagonism between the National Front and its opponents, offered the greatest potential for serious disorder¹⁶

13. The Annual Report for the year 1979 recorded:

The period immediately before the General Election on 3rd May posed considerable problems for the Force. The National Front meeting at Southall Town Hall (which was at the centre of the disorders there) was one of five such election meetings held in accordance with a candidate’s rights under the Representation of the People Act 1949. Each meeting in a different London borough necessitated a strong police presence to preserve the peace between the National Front and their opponents. The National Front held marches on three occasions after the election: they were not opposed to any great extent and give rise to little disorder.

¹⁵ TNA, Report of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis for the year 1978, MPS-0747813 pp. 7–8.

¹⁶ TNA, Report of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis for the year 1978, MPS-0747813 p. 25.

The demands on police manpower to deal with public events continued unabated throughout the year. Special arrangements were made to police demonstrations, sporting events and processions on more than 850 occasions. That figure does not include many deployments made throughout the Metropolitan Police District to police picket lines which were particularly intensive during the industrial disputes early in the year.

...

Southall apart, my officers were generally successful in keeping public order during 1979. Success in that important area of police work nevertheless continues to be hard earned, costly and at the expense of routine police operations in all parts of the Metropolitan Police District. The pressures of policing public events moreover saps the morale and energies of officers who too frequently have to forgo their days off, often at short notice. Despite these frustrations officers in this Force face up to provocation and violence with impressive tact and forbearance. It is this degree of self-control that makes it possible for us to pursue a policy of minimum force in the sphere of public order.¹⁷

...

Special arrangements for the maintenance of public order were made for 850 separate events consisting of 420 meetings, marches and ceremonial events and 430 sporting occasions. These figures do not include the occasions when police officers were on duty on picket lines or the special police arrangements made for the General Election.

The number of public order events was substantially higher; hardly a week passed without at least one incident which required special police arrangements and Appendix 11¹⁸ indicates the frequency with which large numbers of officers were required. On all occasions the police presence was

¹⁷ TNA, Report of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis for the year 1979, pp. 8 - 9.

¹⁸ Appendix 11 (at pp. 88 - 89) lists the number of officers that attended each demonstration including:

- 20th April: National Front election meeting at Islington Town Hall (1431 police officers)
- 23rd April: National Front election meeting at Southall Town Hall (2847 police officers) (at this event 97 police officers and 25 members of the public were injured (one fatally), 345 arrests were made);
- 25th April: National Front election meeting at East Ham Town Hall (1230 police officers)
- 28th April: Socialist Unity meeting at Southall; Meeting held by the National Front parliamentary candidate for Hackney South; March by the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child (6733 police officers)
- 1st May: National Front election meeting at Caxton Hall and May Day march (4007 police officers)
- 13th June: Funeral of Blair Peach (1278 police officers)
- 23rd June: Marches by the NF and the British Movement March by Islamic groups (7818 police officers)
- 30th June: Marches by the AAM and Campaign for Homosexual Equality (2951 police officers)
- 12th August: March and demonstration by the TOM (1418 police officers)
- 6th October: National Front march (3761 police officers)
- 11th November: National Front march to the Cenotaph; March in support of Zimbabwe Emergency Campaign (4497 police officers).

provided at the expense of local operational and administrative commitments.¹⁹

14. The Annual Report for the year 1980 stated:

Demands on the force to police demonstrations and processions remain heavy and on more than 250 occasions in excess of 100 officers were required. The largest rally and demonstration which involved an estimated 50,000 people was held by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

...

The maintenance of public order involves a great deal of hard work by my officers; it is arguably the most difficult police task particularly where those involved are set on confrontation either with opposing groups or with the police. Achieving the correct balance will always be difficult but our traditional methods still enjoy respect.²⁰

...

Public order commitments again made heavy demands on police manpower. A schedule of events which required more than 1,000 policemen is at Appendix 11.²¹ There were 257 other occasions when more than 100 officers were used and special arrangements were made for 431 sporting events.

The activities of the National Front and the British Movement presented the greatest potential for rousing violent opposition and attracted considerable attention from the media. Although there were calls for these marches to be banned adequate measures were taken to enable them to proceed without serious disorder. Only the march by the British Movement in Paddington gave rise to minor disorder when the British Movement supporters dispersed.

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¹⁹ TNA, Report of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis for the year 1979, MPS-0747814 p. 26.

²⁰ TNA, Report of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis for the year 1980, MPS-0747815 pp. 4 - 5.

²¹ Appendix 11 (at pp. 84 - 85) lists the number of officers that attended each demonstration including:

- 2nd March: National Front and Southwark Campaign against Racism and Fascism (5344 police officers)
- 9th March: TUC march (1718 police officers)
- 20th April: National Front march (4234 police officers) (at this event, 6 officers and 4 members of the public were injured and 66 arrests made).
- 27th April: Friends of Blair Peach Committee, Moslem Solidarity Committee and National Front pickets (2354 police officers)
- 15th June: National Front march (3968 police officers)
- 28th June: Gay Pride and Anti-Apartheid marches (1158 police officers)
- 5th October: National Front and Moslem Student Society demonstrations (2472 police officers)
- 19th October: Marches including BM march in Bexley (2529 police officers attended all marches)
- 26th October: CND and NF AGM (1575 police officers)
- 9th November: NF Remembrance Day parade and European Remembrance and Reconciliation Association proposed march, (2956 police officers)
- 15th November: TOM march (1256 police officers)
- 23rd November: BM march and ANL march (3401 police officers) (at this event, 6 police officers and 3 members of public were injured and 76 arrests made).

The inquest on the death of Mr Blair Peach, who sustained fatal injuries during the serious disorder at Southall in 1979 was held at Hammersmith Coroners' Court between 28th April and 27th May. Sitting with a jury HM Coroner Dr JDK Burton heard evidence from 83 witnesses. The jury returned a verdict of "death by misadventure".²²

15. The Annual Report for the year 1981 stated:

The problem of maintaining order in the capital was dominated by the events of April and July.

Rioting of a nature and scale not previously seen in Britain in modern times caused us to review our policing methods. To provide an immediate response to outbreaks of disorder each district was provided with two personnel carriers, modified to provide greater protection for those within and each carrying a crew of officers equipped with shields. The effect has been to enable the Force to mount a quick, powerful and flexible response at any scene of major disorder in London. There can be little doubt that this new found ability to mobilise an effective response was instrumental in preventing further outbreaks of serious street disorder.

The outbreaks that did occur resulted in serious injuries to many of my officers. The protection normally afforded by their traditional uniform has in the past proved to be perfectly adequate for the task of policing public order events. However, the scale and nature of violence encountered including the use of petrol bombs made it necessary for them to carry shields, wear anti-riot helmets, and fire resistant overalls, and be equipped with fire extinguishers. It is a matter of regret that such measures have become necessary.

The acquisition of protective clothing and equipment is of paramount importance and in this respect I am grateful for the assistance which has been tendered by manufacturers. Whilst a great deal of progress has been made, there is still much to be done to give adequate protection from personal injury.

...

In his report, Lord Scarman found that the police response to the disorders was wise, cool and commendably restrained but there were shortcomings and steps have been taken to remedy them.

...

Beyond the disorders the normal demands on the Force to police demonstrations and procession remained heavy and on more than 350 occasions in excess of 100 officers were required. The largest rally and demonstration involving an estimated 150,000 people was held by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and passed off peacefully although traffic was seriously disrupted. The demonstration which provoked the most serious public disorder occurred on Monday 2nd March when an estimated 4000 people, mainly black, marched from Deptford to Hyde Park

²² TNA, Report of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis for the year 1980, MPS-0747815 p. 26.

to commemorate the deaths of 13 young people in the house fire in New Cross mentioned earlier. During the march 31 people were arrested for various offences; 88 police officers were injured and 48 crimes were recorded.

...

On seven occasions this year, I considered it necessary to apply for bans under Section 3 (3) of the Public Order Act 1936 to prevent serious public disorder. Consent was received in response to each application.²³

...

Public order commitments made unprecedented demands on police manpower during the year and a schedule of events at which more than 1000 policemen were employed is at Appendix 11.²⁴ There were 354 other occasions, including serious street disorders, when more than 100 officers were used and special arrangements were made for 378 sporting events.²⁵

16. The Annual Report for the year 1982 said:

Since the publication of Lord Scarman's report, the Force has responded swiftly and positively to his recommendations and much progress has been made. Greater attention is being paid to methods of policing different areas resulting in greater community involvement of operational officers and an increase in the number of home beat officers. Whilst it difficult to maintain an even spread of experienced officers throughout the Force, a number of the more mature officers were transferred to Brixton in 1982 to achieve a better balance.

The recommendation by Lord Scarman that consultative arrangements should be placed on a statutory basis has been accepted by the Government and appropriate provisions are being incorporated into the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill...

²³ TNA, Report of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis for the year 1981, MPS-0747816 pp. 4-5.

²⁴ Appendix 11 (at pp. 82 - 83) lists the number of officers that attended each demonstration including:

- 25th January: Meeting and march concerning the Deptford fire (1225 police officers)
- 2nd March: Black People's Day of Action march (3059 police officers)
- 5th April: Nationality Bill marches (2821 police officers)
- 30th May: New National Front in Ealing (3780 police officers)
- 11th July: Socialist Workers' Party and Anti-Nazi League meetings - "j" district (2009 police officers)
- 12th July: National Front and Anti-Nazi League meetings, 1298 officers attended.
- 30th August: National Front and ANL meetings (2292 police officers)
- 18th October: British Movement march (3998 police officers)
- 24th October: CND march (4202 police officers)
- 8th November: Remembrance day service and National Front Remembrance Day parade (3762 police officers)
- 29th November: TUC jobs for Youth March (2432 police officers)
- 6th December: BM march (2241 police officers)

²⁵ TNA, Report of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis for the year 1981, MPS-0747816 p. 27.

Fortunately this year we have not experienced street disorders of the level witnessed in 1981. There were however, minor outbreaks of disorder. These were quickly dealt with by the effective deployment of the instant response units which were introduced in the Force during 1981. These units have proved invaluable in the control of disorder and in general patrol duties on their local districts. They have also permitted greater flexibility in the management of major operations with a commensurate saving in manpower.

...

Continuing demands were made on the Force to police demonstrations and processions during the year and on more than 200 occasions it was necessary to employ more than 100 officers. By far the largest demonstration was the one organised by the [CND] on the eve of the visit of the President of the United States of America, when an estimated 110,000 people marched from assembly points in the north, south and west of London to a meeting at Hyde Park. This demonstration was peaceful and orderly but traffic was severely disrupted.

...

On five occasions this year it was necessary to apply for bans under Section 3 (3) of the Public Order Act 1936 to prevent serious public disorder. On each occasion your consent was given and serious order was avoided. It is one of the strengths of the British system of policing that the same officers who are in daily contact with the public through their local and routine duties are those utilised to police public events or disorder. However, the number of demonstrations and the like occasions has caused serious diversion of police manpower from local law enforcement. Thus, whilst recognising the continuing importance of maintaining public order, it is essential in future to achieve economies in the use of manpower. The aim will be to maintain overall effectiveness in policing disorder but to keep as many police officers as possible on normal duties. There are various options including enhanced planning to reduce manpower levels at major public events; use of officers on post-initial training as a support reserve; more flexible use of the instant response units to give them a specific role in support of local policing activity on their districts; and redirection of the Special Patrol Group towards crime problems of particular concern such as burglary.²⁶

...

Public order commitments made the usual heavy demands on police manpower during the year and a schedule of events at which more than 1000 policemen were employed is at Appendix 10.²⁷ There were 201 other

²⁶ TNA, Report of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis for the year 1982, MPS-0747817 pp. 10 - 12.

²⁷ Appendix 10 (at p. 87) lists the number of officers that attended each demonstration including:

- 6th March: NF march (1140 police officers)
- 14th March: AA march (1733 police officers)
- 8th May: TOM march (1010 police officers)
- 21st to 27th May: Wandsworth industrial dispute (1506 police officers)
- 29th August: NF meeting – general reserves (1241 police officers)
- 12th September: NF march (1148 police officers)

occasions when more than 100 officers were used and special arrangements were made for 444 sporting events.

Because of the threat of serious public disorder by proposed processions, bans under Section 3 (3) of the Public Order Act 1936 were applied for, and consented to, on five occasions.²⁸

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- 22nd September: TUC day of action (4327 police officers)
 - 19th November: NUS march (1374 police officers).

²⁸ TNA, Report of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis for the year 1982, MPS-0747817 p. 32