

RNI DE-CLASSIFIED

Nelson's house on that night, we may never have known about it. In the circumstances, my sense was that they were being more forthright than usual in providing us with this information.

15. Our request for this information was certainly more robust than usual. Mr Kinkaid had his own particular style and way of doing things. By this I mean Mr Kinkaid raised actions directly with Special Branch in circumstances where I might have raised the same actions to myself or to the MIT intelligence officers and they would then have been accountable to the SIO to follow these through to a conclusion. If I had done this I would have been given the reply verbally unless I had asked for a written one. It was the same process, but just done in a slightly different way. Mr Kinkaid's way method was different in allocating an action directly to the senior management of Special Branch. He probably felt that it put more pressure on Special Branch as he had given them something in writing.
16. I have been asked about the relationship between Mr Kinkaid and Mr B629. There appeared to be tensions but it did not reflect on the course our investigation.
17. Mr Kinkaid asked for the surveillance logs, tasking sheets and the maps of the routes taken by the surveillance operatives. He eventually obtained possession of the documents, which by agreement were retained securely in a safe at Mahon Road as exhibit SK1. DCI Gutsell and I reviewed these documents prior to and when interviewing the surveillance officers as it showed the routes taken by each of the officers involved. I would think this also created a degree of tension as Special Branch were not keen on handing over anything which revealed their methodology. It was also an ongoing operation and they would have had concerns about compromising it by providing us with this information. Special Branch may not have understood our need to see this type of information for the criminal investigation. Unlike Special Branch Offices in Great Britain where there would be those who would have a background in CID, most Special Branch Officers in Northern Ireland had no CID experience therefore they were not as acutely aware of the evidence gathering process in a major investigation. There were obvious concerns held by Special Branch that if they handed something over to a criminal investigation it would be disclosed in subsequent Court