

RNI DE-CLASSIFIED

were noted. I believe that an entry was put in the policy book relating to this request and a written action form was given to Mr **B629**. There was a delay of a few days before we got a response from Special Branch providing details of Operation Fagotto.

13. By this time the Kent police officers had arrived. When information about Operation Fagotto was received I was asked to interview the surveillance officers to authenticate the operation and was accompanied on this exercise by DI Gutsell. I have been asked why it was necessary for Mr **B508** to be present during these interviews. I did not find this particularly unusual. I had interviewed the SAS and other military personnel over the years relating other operations and it was not unusual for them to have their senior officer or lawyer with them. Mr **B508** was probably there to protect Special Branch and the intelligence relating to the operation in case sensitive information was disclosed, for example, an officer might inadvertently disclose some sensitive element of methodology that may not be necessary. Special Branch would not want this type of information to go into the statements. His presence did not affect the interview in any way and I was able to obtain the required statement from each of the officers involved.
14. I have been asked whether I was surprised that it took 2-3 days from Mr Kinkaid's request about operations to get a response from Special Branch. I know this was a source of frustration to Mr Kinkaid but this did not unduly surprise me. Knowing from my previous experience how Special Branch operated, I can understand why provision of this material was not immediate (although in an ideal world I would have wanted it to be). They had undertaken an operation approximately half a mile from Mrs Nelson's house. Because it was not proximate to her home they probably considered carefully whether the MIT really needed to know about it. The target was a very viable terrorist suspect for Special Branch to conduct an operation against. It was a sensitive operation and they would naturally query what would happen if they disclosed this intelligence to the MIT. I suspect, although I do not know, they would have wanted to find out which team was on the ground on that particular night, speak to them individually and also speak to the Detective Chief Inspector in TCG. I also suspect that had one of the surveillance operatives not driven past Mrs