File Note

On Friday 9 June[1] and I visited[2] This meeting was arranged following a meeting with OH and 'S' squad management on 5 May in order to discuss current arrangements whereby[3] can be called upon to assist SDS on an ad hoc basis and seeking[4] advice regarding regular counselling interviews with field officers.

Our discussion covered a wide range of issues but on the point of regular counselling interviews [5] indicated some surprise at every 3 months and suggested that unless a problem was evident a debriefing session with a counsellor following termination of operations would probably be sufficient and beneficial. [6] cautioned against the current practice of over 'psychiatrising' people's problems, which can lead to the situation becoming more acute. However[7] said that in the first instance it would be better to seek the views of field officers as to when and what problems they had experienced. We would then be in a position to judge timing and frequency of interviews.

[8] was happy to continue to assist when necessary. I suggested that we would like to consider putting the arrangements on a more official footing. [9] indicated that[10] department now had agency status and that they would undoubtedly seeking cross charging, the alternative would be for[11] to inform[12] that[13] was doing some private work and[14] would bill us direct. This is not an uncommon practice for[15] colleagues to do. The advantage of this arrangement would be that it could be kept 'in house'. We did not discuss fees, which would have to be negotiated at a future date should we go down this route.