



SECRET

Prime Minister

MW

15xii

Seen by Mr. (M)

MW

16xii

Ref. A03809

MR. WHITMORE

Lord Kagan

I confirm that, as I told the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary before the weekend, Lord Kagan was in contact on a number of occasions with an identified KGB officer named Vaygauskas between March 1970 and September 1971, when Vaygauskas was one of those intelligence officers who were expelled in Operation FOOT.

2. Lord Kagan was interviewed by the Security Service in November 1971, and on four subsequent occasions. He was told of Vaygauskas's intelligence role. It was concluded that, although Lord Kagan had not been acting as a conscious agent of the KGB, he had been used by Vaygauskas to obtain information and gossip about political matters.

3. Mr. Harold Wilson was interviewed about Lord Kagan at his own (Mr. Wilson's) request in October 1972. Mr. Wilson was informed of Vaygauskas's intelligence function and of his relationship with Lord Kagan. He volunteered to talk to Lord Kagan and to warn him of any further dealings with the Russians.

4. Shortly after becoming Prime Minister, Mr. Wilson was reminded of the 1972 interview; on that occasion he confirmed that he had passed a warning to Lord Kagan on the earlier occasion.

5. Later in 1974 there were allegations that Lord Kagan was in touch with another KGB officer, then a member of the Soviet Mission to the United Nations. The KGB officer in question was never admitted to the United Kingdom: he applied for a visa in December 1974 but it was refused.

6. Sir Harold Wilson has said that he will be making a statement on Wednesday or Thursday. I suggest that, for the time being, if the Prime Minister is asked any questions, she should simply refer to that statement on the following lines:-

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"I understand that the rt. honourable Gentleman the Member for Huyton is to issue a statement on this question: I have no comment to make."

7. Sir Harold Wilson is coming in to this office tomorrow to look at the papers which he saw as Prime Minister. I propose to be available when he comes, in order to make sure that he remembers the interviews which took place but which are not recorded in the papers. I will report further after his visit.

*Paragraphs 8 and 9 closed, 40 years,
under a FOI Exemption.*

*Wayland
25 August 2011*

RA

(Robert Armstrong)

15th December, 1980