



10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister

Some disgraceful  
leaks here - all  
through Diplomatic  
correspondents, which  
probably speaks for  
itself.

C.D.?

yesterday as Greenpeace Campaigners battled to form a human barrier between the harpoonists and their prey.

And the high seas struggle raged Britain hit out at the Japanese for flouting an international whaling ban.

And agriculture ministry spokesman said: "We have severe doubts about the Japanese so-called scientific whaling, which appears to be commercial whaling under another guise."

"The International Whaling

appear to tread their own path."

Greenpeace campaigners braved water hoses and clubbing threats for three hours as they thwarted the Japanese hunters.

### Shield

One of their two inflatable launches developed engine trouble and both vessels were forced to withdraw to the 15,000 ton Greenpeace ship, Gondwana, which took up the struggle.

Campaigner Paul Bogart, speaking from the ship, said yesterday:

"We placed the inflatable boats between the whales and the harpoonists.

"When the engine broke down we used the Gondwana as a shield. It was quite a dramatic scene with the ships trying to outmanoeuvre each other."

But the Gondwana's attempts to intercept all three of the 60-metre hunters proved impossible and by nightfall 10 whales had been killed, taking the Japanese fleet's total to 50 in two weeks.

the stern of the fleet's factory to prevent the hunter boats—which can carry only two carcasses—from unloading.

The whalers were discovered when the Gondwana accident stumbled across their 450ft factory ship, the Nisshinmaru, five days ago.

The 23-strong Greenpeace crew immediately shelved routine surveillance work and set out to shadow the Japanese.

As the 23,000-ton factory ship tried desperately to shake

# HOWE TO KICK OUT RUSSIAN SPIES



Howe: Warning

By PETER HITCHENS Diplomatic Correspondent

**MINISTERS and MI5 chiefs, angered by the rapid growth of Russian spying in Britain, are on the brink of ordering a dramatic clear-out.**

Lists of suspects marked down for expulsion have already been drawn up by the Security Service—ready for use if the Soviet KGB does not cut back hard and quickly on its espionage activities.

The threat follows a final and public warning to the Kremlin at the weekend from Foreign Secretary Sir

Geoffrey Howe to scale down their operations in Britain—or else.

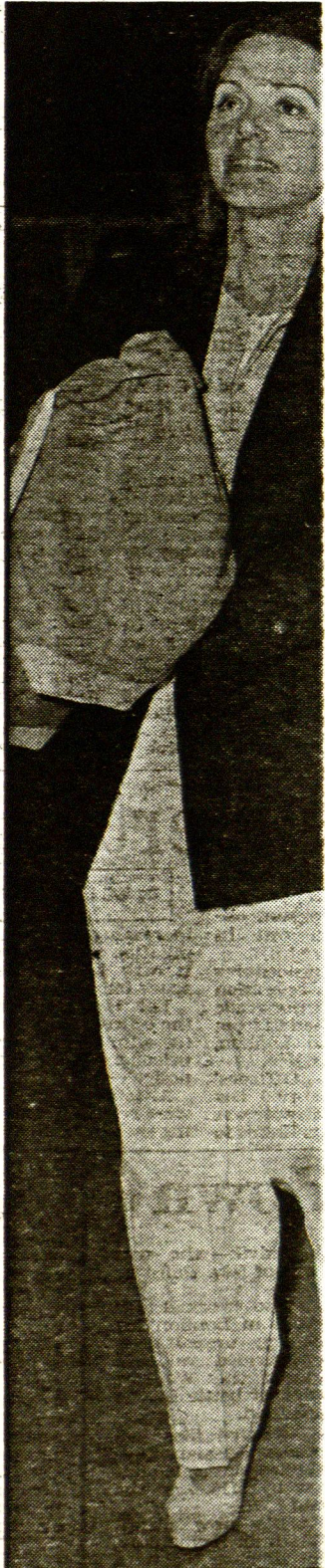
Mrs Thatcher has been shocked and alarmed by security reports to Downing Street which warn of the upsurge in Soviet spying activities.

The Prime Minister had planned to raise the KGB's tactics with Mr Gorbachev last month, but his trip to London was postponed by the Armenian earthquake.

In a passage in his speech dealing with Moscow's continued arms build-up, Sir Geoffrey suddenly switched tack.

Mr Gorbachev's policies of openness had failed to reach some parts of Moscow thinking, he said, and went on: "The credibility of Soviet foreign policy continues to suffer from the

## STAR IS SILENT



Anna yesterday Picture:

## Jackson quits for love of Liz

**SUPERSTAR Michael Jackson quit the stage last night after a 17-month tour and said he was devoting himself to helping his close friend Elizabeth Taylor.**

A friend of Jackson said: "Michael loves Elizabeth. He'd do anything to help." The 30-year-old pop star believes his oxygen chamber at his Californian mansion will help ease her crippling back problem.

## Spies crackdown

### From Page One

subversive activities of the KGB abroad, which sit ill with Soviet protestations that its foreign policy is based on peace and friendship.

"If anything, those activities have intensified since Mr Gorbachev became leader."

Sir Geoffrey—one of the very few ministers who see MI5 reports on spying in London—was speaking from his own knowledge of the swelling army of Russian agents now in this country.

That knowledge was recently boosted by the spectacular defection of Czech agent

Vlastimil Ludvik—who was spirited out of New Delhi by MI6.

Ludvik, who worked for several years in London for the Czech spy organisation StB has provided valuable insights into the Warsaw Pact's order of battle in the intelligence field.

He has updated files last opened when Russian Oleg Gordievsky was smuggled out of Moscow by MI6. And the news is bad.

The KGB's new chief, General Vladimir Kryuchkov, is thought to have placed a new emphasis on spying in the West.

● Mr Gorbachev will visit Britain just after Easter to have top-level talks with Mrs Thatcher.



# OPINION

## Kick them out, Sir Geoffrey

WHEN a British Foreign Secretary, especially one as restrained as Sir Geoffrey Howe, issues a public warning about KGB activity the world would do well to listen.

Sir Geoffrey has pointed out that far from lessening under the smiling Mr Gorbachev, the KGB's subversive activities abroad have increased. He will not have said this lightly, but with the benefit of the best intelligence available.

Until such subversion does lessen, the West should continue to regard Kremlin assurances that East-West relations have moved into an era of peace and friendship with extreme caution—even scepticism. One does not, after all, seek to subvert friends.

As Sir Geoffrey rightly said, the Kremlin must demonstrate its good intentions with more than just words. And until those intentions become facts, the West must keep its powder dry.

As a result the British public will expect the Foreign Secretary not to hesitate in expelling any Soviet agents engaged in KGB subversion here. The evidence suggests that the KGB has cynically abused the close Thatcher-Gorbachev friendship to pump even more agents into this country.

## Why high interest rates must stay

THE Stock Market is recovering its pre-Black Monday spirits. And many City analysts are predicting that prices will continue to rise throughout the year.

Renewed investor confidence, however, must not be taken as a signal for the Chancellor to take off the economic brakes.

The present high interest rates, though painful for home buyers and businessmen, are necessary for slowing the over-heated economy. The trade deficit needs to be reduced and inflation—far higher than our competitors—must be controlled.

The economy will not suffer lasting damage from temporarily high interest rates, but uncontrolled inflation would drive it on to the rocks.

High interest rates will work only if allowed time. It would be a disastrous misjudgment to lower them prematurely because the Stock Market has turned bullish.

## Minister for Litter

JUNIOR Environment Minister



THE militant campaign being waged against Salman Rushdie's novel *The Satanic Verses* shows signs of escalating into a dangerous confrontation which could ultimately damage race relations.

What we are now witnessing is Britain's one million Moslems, representing our largest and fastest-growing religion outside Christianity, flexing their political muscles.

Moslem extremists have urged a "jihad", or holy war, against the book while death threats have been made against the Bombay-born author.

At the weekend 8,000 Moslems from high immigrant areas like London's Whitechapel, Sheffield, Huddersfield and Dewsbury marched through London to protest outside Downing Street and the publisher Penguin's Kensington headquarters.

This followed the ceremonial burning of the book, shortlisted for both the Booker and Whitbread literary prizes, outside Bradford town hall and pressure on WH Smith to withdraw it from their shelves.

Already they have successfully demanded special treatment in schools and prisons recognising their religious and cultural differences.

## Provoked

Now the Rushdie controversy has led to Moslem calls for Parliament to extend our blasphemy laws so that the same legal action could be brought against an offensive non-Christian book as well as a Christian book.

It is this less hysterical approach that commends itself to moderates like Dr Mughram Al-Ghamdi, director-general of the Islamic Centre at the Regents Park mosque.

He has complained that his anti-Satanic Verses campaign has been "hijacked by mischief-makers" in Bradford.

Dr Hesham El Essawy, director of the Islamic Society for the Promotion of Religious Tolerance in the UK, believes that the book-burning has undoubtedly provoked an anti-Moslem backlash.

"It has awakened the sleeping demons of racialism," he warned.



Streng

# Will of n lead Wil



Bob Cryer, Labour MP for Bradford South with its huge Moslem community, describes the campaign as "ill judged" and claims that he has already heard examples of racial friction in his constituency.

"The Asian community is generally public-spirited, we behaved and self-effacing," he said last night.

"But burning books public has unfortunate connotations with the Nazis during the Thirties. As a result, members of the Monday Club have been distributing anti-Asian

## Hitting back

# Maggie and Mikhail set a date for Easter

SOVIET leader Mikhail Gorbachev is coming to Britain just after Easter for full-scale talks with Mrs Thatcher.

He and his wife Raisa, and a top team of advisers, are expected to stay longer than the 36 hours originally planned before the Armenian earthquake forced him to postpone his December visit.

The new date, due to be announced officially by Downing Street this week, puts the Prime Minister firmly back in the driving seat on East-West relations.

She will be in a singularly strong position to interpret latest Kremlin thinking on the Nato summit planned by Mr Bush for early summer.

Mr Gorbachev will no doubt face tough questioning over Warsaw Pact figures released yesterday claiming that its conventional forces are now roughly equal to those of Nato.

Both British and American diplomats poured cold water on the East's first official figures on its troop numbers and armaments published yesterday. The seven-member pact put its total troop strength at 3,573,000,

GORBACHEV ON WAY AS EAST SAYS ITS FORCES ARE EQUAL TO NATO'S

By Diplomatic Correspondent

not including interior department, field and border police, and Nato's at 3,660,000.

The Warsaw Pact figure is almost half a million higher than the 3,090,000 previously estimated by Western experts.

And its figure for Nato troop levels is 1,400,000 higher than the West claims.

Nato has always said the pact had a two-to-one troops advantage.

On tanks, where Nato has said the Warsaw Pact holds a three-to-one advantage, the tables say it has 59,470 tanks, compared with 30,690 for Nato.



Mrs Thatcher welcoming the Gorbachevs in 1987

Publication of the figures comes only a month before both sides meet in Vienna to discuss cuts in Europe's conventional forces.

While recognising Mr Gorbachev's bid to scale down his troops, Britain and the U.S. will suggest yesterday's Soviet claims are treated with some scepticism because the figures are worked out on a different basis to those issued by the West.

The news came as a Labour Party delegation flew to Moscow today hoping the Russians could offer them a face-saving defence policy.

But yesterday the party edged further towards a fudge on nuclear weapons as defence spokesman and delegation member Martin O'Neill

admitted Kremlin chiefs were worried by Britain's independent deterrent. Mr O'Neill said this meant they had to watch us as well as the U.S.

'I think the Soviet Union would be prepared to pay a price to get other people out of it,' he added.

He also hinted that it would take a Labour Government a long time to get rid of nuclear weapons, claiming: 'It would be a very dangerous process for us to say that we could get rid of everything immediately.'

His remarks are likely to anger another delegate, Left-wing transport union boss Ron Todd, who insists Labour must stick to its ban-the-bomb stance.

## Labour's attack on mortgage tax relief

By CHRISTOPHER BELL

LABOUR chiefs would slash mortgage tax relief for millions of home-owners and take it away from some altogether.

The plan would not affect struggling first-time buyers. They would still qualify for full tax relief. But it would lead to tax help for the better off being progressively reduced.

Based on a sliding scale, tax relief would fall off for people whose earnings go above £15-20,000.

Well-heeled people in the South East could lose their tax relief altogether, despite the high cost of housing.

### Problems

Labour is looking at plans which would mean ending tax relief for those who earn more than £100,000 in the South East and £50,000 in the provinces.

The scheme, which could present enormous administrative problems, is likely to be one of the major battlegrounds at the next election, with Mrs Thatcher determined to maintain tax relief for all despite the opposition of Chancellor Nigel Lawson.

Shadow housing spokesman Clive Soley said last night: 'Everybody realises something must be done. The question is how to change it for the better without clobbering people.'

## Neo-Nazi

Continued from Page One

huber, a former officer in Hitler's SS, the party has aroused considerable anger in West Berlin in recent months by demanding that foreigners working in the city should be sent back to their homelands.

## 'Death of the Rock' fury

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Gibraltar to think again about where its future lies in economic and political terms. Strategically, Gibraltar remains important with a ship

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But Mr Jack Thompson, landlord of the Wembley Bar, opposite the garrison regiment,

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