



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

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Prime Minister

23 September 1983

A & C 2 1/2

Dear John,

Expulsion of Soviet Intelligence Officer

On the recommendation of the Security Service, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary has agreed that we should expel V V Ionov, an official of the Soviet Trade Delegation and an identified GRU officer.

Ionov has been here since April 1981. It is his first foreign posting, and he does not have diplomatic status. The fact that he succeeded an identified GRU officer, and associated with other GRU officers, and made considerable use of anti-surveillance techniques, naturally led to suspicions that he was himself a member of the GRU.

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These activities - and more especially those summarised in paragraph 2 above - are sufficient to warrant expulsion, particularly in view of our own concerns, and those of the US Government, about technology transfer to the Soviet Union.

/No damage



No damage has been done by Ionov in these particular cases, but Sir Geoffrey Howe believes that we must clearly take action in cases where activity of this kind is detected.

As Ionov is not a diplomat he is the responsibility of the Home Secretary. Papers are being submitted to Mr Brittan this weekend. Subject to his concurrence, we propose that action should be taken in this matter by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Action will be taken as soon as is reasonably possible, and an immediate announcement will be made. We naturally hope that there will be no retaliation, and shall warn the Soviet Ambassador that if there is, we shall respond.

I am copying this letter to Tony Rawsthorne (Home Office) and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Handwritten signature
E

(B J P Fall)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

TOP SECRET



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COPY NO. 2 OF
2 COPIES

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

24 September, 1983

Expulsion of Soviet Intelligence Officer

The Prime Minister has noted the contents of your letter of 23 September.

A. J. COLE

B. J. P. Fall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

TOP SECRET

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AMCAST 025/28

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Time Lines

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FM 281630Z SEP 83
TO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK
TELEGRAM NUMBER OF 28 SEPTEMBER
INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON (FOR PS/NO 10), MOSCOW,
INFO PRIORITY BONN, PARIS, UKDEL NATO
FOLLOWING FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY.

1. THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN SUMMONED TO SEE JAMES AT 1230 HOURS ON 29 SEPTEMBER. HE WILL BE INFORMED THAT V V IONOV, AN OFFICIAL AT THE SOVIET TRADE DELEGATION, HAS ENGAGED IN INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES INCOMPATIBLE WITH HIS POSITION, AND MUST LEAVE THE UK WITHIN SEVEN DAYS.
2. MIFT CONTAINS TEXT OF ON THE RECORD STATEMENT TO BE ISSUED BY NEWS DEPARTMENT AT 1500 ON 29 SEPTEMBER, TOGETHER WITH NOTES FOR SUPPLEMENTARIES.

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