



TOP SECRET

Prime Minister. 4

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Ref. A0398

MR. WHITMORE

Sir Anthony Blunt

both attached

My minute to the Prime Minister A09495 of 8th May informed her that Sir Anthony Blunt was the Fourth Man and Annex 2 to that minute set out the details about him: and my minute A09648 of 29th May attached a possible draft statement, with Notes for Supplementaries, which might be used if and when the Blunt story became public knowledge e.g. in Andrew Boyle's book or following Blunt's death.

We now know that Andrew Boyle's book will be published early in November and that the Observer will print extracts from the book on 28th October. We think, but are not sure, that Blunt will not be identified directly as the Fourth Man but that the story will be told in such a way as to make it clear that this is what the author thinks. This is the technique which has already been used in a number of articles recently (e.g. reviews of Richard Deacon's recent book "The British Connection" and pieces in "Private Eye" on 14th and 28th September). It is difficult to predict the effect which Boyle's book will have. It is possible that, given what has already appeared recently, it will not create as big a sensation as we first thought and that there will be no need for a Government statement. Alternatively Sir Anthony Blunt may take some action himself (libel proceedings, a public confession or even suicide). I do not think that we can usefully take any further action to bring up to date the statement or the Notes for Supplementaries (which in any case require some minor amendments) until we know the situation the Government is confronted with. This minute is therefore simply to warn the Prime Minister that interest in Blunt is likely to increase following publication of the Observer extracts on 28th October.

(John Hunt)

10th October, 1979

RUSSIA'S NOTORIOUS UNIVERSITY RECRUITS PHILBY, BURGESS AND MacLEAN ARE NOW CLAIMED TO BE JUST THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG

NOTHING could be more normal or innocent. A peace-loving economist from Cambridge spends his holidays mountaineering in Switzerland and meets a British naturalist who paints water colours of Alpine flowers.

Who would suspect that, under cover of chatting about the niceties of gentian and edelweiss, Professor Arthur Pigou was all the time arranging payment for arms shipments to Riga with an intermediary of the Bolshevik agent, Ossip Piatnisky?

Who indeed?

But can any of the super-spies unmasked elsewhere compare with Pigou, the mild, liberal rock-climber who made little donnish jokes about ladies in knicker-bockers and who wrote his first thesis on Browning as a Religious Teacher?

Talents

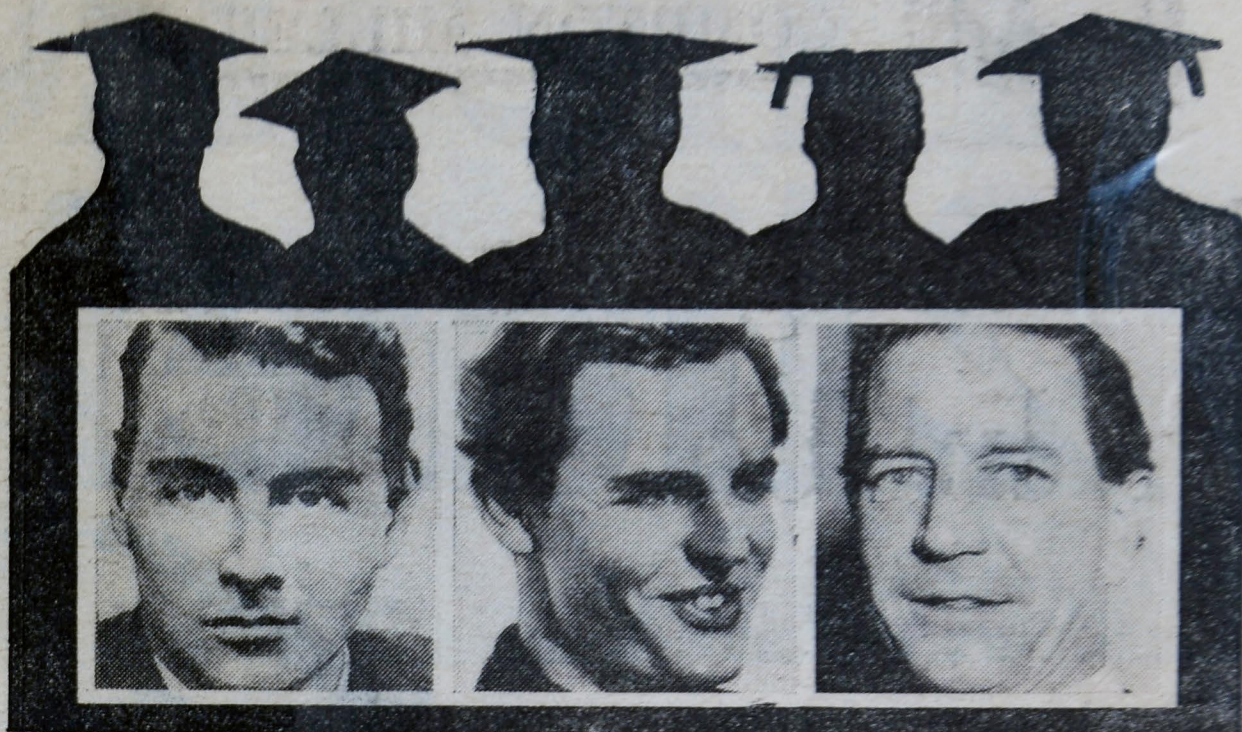
In the British Connection (Hamish Hamilton £7.95), published today, Richard Deacon suggests that for 40 years, Pigou was a Soviet agent recruiting other agents from among young Cambridge Left-wing idealists. And he says the don was one of the first to spot the talents of Guy Burgess.

Deacon says Pigou was "astonishingly deceptive." That's an understatement.

Was Pigou the Fourth Man who recruited and controlled Philby, Burgess and Maclean?

Oh, says Mr. Deacon airily, that's nothing: "What one should be looking for is not a Fourth or a Fifth Man, but for the sixth, seventh, eighth, etc."

Some of the Deacon allegations have been published in The Guardian and provoked outraged denials from Pigou's old colleagues at King's College, Cambridge — such as Lord



Graduates in treachery: Burgess, Maclean and Philby. But how many more?

Traitors unlimited?

by

FERDINAND MOUNT

herring deliberately planned, for some mysterious sinister reason, via the Garrick Club.

For example, the matter of the Sensational Theft of Mr. Philip Noel-Baker's Keys — all due to Pigou, says Roger, because Pigou knew every detail about the habits of Noel-Baker (then a junior Minister in Ramsay Macdonald's government). Even where he kept his

1944-5 and that there were six names on the suspect short list — including Maclean, who was at neither

Deacon says three of the names — Paul Gore-Booth, Roger Makins and Michael Wright — were ruled out as entirely above suspicion.

The other two "more likely suspects" were Lord Inverchapel, British Ambassador to both Washington and Moscow (whom Deacon

through his ex-Cambridge contacts in the organisation."

Now, according to Deacon, Tomas Harris—who is dead —was, apart from being a great collector of Spanish art, also a brilliant Triple Cross Soviet agent. Does Deacon mean to imply then that Sir Anthony was a Soviet dupe? But since he was nothing to do with the business at all, why mention him?

And, apart from the published material about Philby, etc., where is the evidence for all these allegations?

Most of it seems to be what Mr. Deacon portentsously calls the Deacon

Kaldor, Lord Annan and Mr. L. P. Wilkinson, the classical scholar.

Pigou, they say, did not have "a passion for Communist economics." He was in fact a highly orthodox economist of the mainstream British school and this is just another McCarthyite smear, like The Times allegation — later hurriedly apologised for — that another Cambridge don, Donald Beves, was the Fourth Man.

Undaunted

Mr. Deacon, say his former colleagues, would not dare to make such allegations if Pigou or any other of his targets were still alive.

Undaunted, Mr. Deacon who has written histories of the Israeli, British, Russian and Chinese Secret Services, alleges that "within the next few years it is almost certain that two other ex-King's men will be revealed as those whose bogus liberalism led them to the 'treason of the clerks'".

At times you feel that Donald Beves is just about the only Cambridge don whom Mr. Deacon believes was not a spy. He derides The Times story as an improbable and ill-founded red

keys.

Amazing

You'll never guess where he kept them . . . in his trousers — which he was in the habit of removing before retiring to bed. Amazing.

And if Mr. Deacon's evidence is not always impressive, his style is decidedly underhand.

But are Mr. Deacon's own methods of investigation any sounder? He bases many of his allegations on the evidence of a pre-war Soviet agent in Switzerland code-named Roger. Some of Roger's material is, well, not entirely impressive.

In looking for the Fourth Man in the Foreign Office, he says that the allegation by the high-placed Soviet defector Krivitsky of a second traitor there "whose name was Scottish and whose habits were Bohemian" did not refer to Maclean, because Maclean was too junior and, at the time, scarcely Bohemian in his habits.

Philby, in his memoirs, says Krivitsky had recruited a diplomat who had been educated at Eton and Oxford and who was stationed in Washington at the time of the known leakages in

goes on to accuse not only of Soviet sympathies but of sinister links with Soviet agents), and another man "who is still alive".

Anyone with reasonable knowledge of the background to all this might deduce that Deacon is referring to old X. But then, if he has the evidence, why doesn't he have the guts to name him?

Then there is the technique of half-guilt by association. Not so much a smear, more a slight smudge on a man's character. Well-known names drift in and out of Mr. Deacon's narrative and you are never quite sure why he mentions them. There was no valid reason to do so.

Take, for example, Sir Anthony Blunt, the distinguished art historian and former surveyor of the Queen's Pictures.

Deacon describes Blunt's Left-wing views as a young man and then adds: "The world of art in the late 1930s seems to have led a number of improbable recruits into the world of Intelligence, notably Tomas Harris, the art collector, and, after he had joined the Army and been evacuated from Dunkirk, Blunt himself, who was brought into MI5 largely

Papers which have been "given to the Wiener Library and Institute of Contemporary History with the proviso that they cannot be inspected for a period of ten years."

Despise

That aside, it is now clear beyond any doubt that the Foreign Office, the Scientific Establishment and the universities throughout the 1930s and 1940s were riddled with Soviet sympathisers and that among them there were a terrifying number of actual Soviet agents.

Those spies who were caught or who fled to the East can have been only a fraction of those whose treachery was so costly to the West in terms of lives and national security.

The Americans have every right to despise the slackness of British minds and methods.

But if the history of the Great Betrayal is to be written as a reminder for posterity, then it must be properly documented and detailed.

Otherwise it will be all too easy for our grandchildren to dismiss the whole business as just a great scare.

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copy 2 of 2 copies

Security ⁵

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR JOHN HUNT

SIR ANTHONY BLUNT

The Prime Minister has seen your minute A0398 of 10 October 1979 and is grateful for your warning that interest in Sir Anthony Blunt is likely to grow with the publication in the Observer of extracts from Andrew Boyle's book.

C. A. WHITMORE

17 October 1979

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