

MR. WHITMORE

Sir Geoffrey Harrison

Sir Geoffrey Harrison was the target of a KGB compromise operation in Moscow in 1968 which he himself reported immediately on coming under pressure. He was thereupon withdrawn from Moscow and interviewed by the Security Authorities. There was no evidence that there was any loss of classified information.

Duty Clerk

21 11 79

BRIEF FOR PRIME MINISTERCASE OF SIR GEOFFREY HARRISONProblem

1. Two journalists from the Daily Mirror have information that Sir Geoffrey Harrison was prematurely withdrawn as HM Ambassador Moscow in 1968 as a result of a KGB compromise. Sir Geoffrey has admitted the accuracy of this story to the journalists. The Editor of the Daily Mirror has decided not to publish but the story may well come out.

*Passage deleted and retained under Section 3(4).
Wayland, 11 March 2014*

Line to Take

2. A Line to Take is attached.

Background

3. On 22 August 1968 Sir Geoffrey Harrison, HM Ambassador Moscow, was withdrawn a few days before he was due to leave on retirement. He had reported that KGB pressure had been put on him to provide information as a result of his affair with a Russian maid in his personal household.

4. He was formally reprimanded.

5. He was interviewed three times by the Security Service.

It was finally concluded that he had given a true and complete account of the affair and that there had been no loss of

/classified



classified information of any substance, though he might have revealed personality information about some British Embassy staff.

Ministerial Involvement

6. The Foreign Secretary (Mr Michael Stewart) and the Prime Minister were immediately informed (and were kept informed). When the investigations had been completed the American Secretary of State (Mr Rusk) and the Director of the CIA (Mr Helms) were informed.

Involvement of the Palace

7. Sir Geoffrey had been awarded the GCMG in the Birthday Honours 1968. Sir M Adeane was informed and arrangements made whereby the Insignia was delivered to Sir Geoffrey at home and he did not attend a ceremony at the Palace, nor did he have the customary farewell interview with The Queen.

SECRET



PA

MS

THE CASE OF SIR GEOFFREY HARRISON

Line to Take

Sir Geoffrey Harrison was the target of a KGB compromise operation in Moscow in 1968 which he himself reported immediately on coming under pressure. He was thereupon withdrawn from Moscow and interviewed by the Security authorities. There was no evidence that there was any loss of classified information.

SECRET

Private Security

He spoke. I will speak
just to the S/S tomorrow.
But you may show
him this week. : SECRET
We are also informing (No 10)
M Alexander
Michael J. Salter
20/11



PUS
c.c. Chief Clerk

SIR G HARRISON (Miss Waghorn's minute of 19 November)

see minute below

1. As agreed, I telephoned Mr Dalton and advised that he should decline to allow himself to be drawn further and to suggest to Mr Penrose that he direct any further enquiries to the Office. In this context, he could make suitable reference to the Diplomatic Service Regulations (No 14) which requires officers and retired officers to seek authority in respect of disclosing official information or using official experience. Mr Dalton accepted the advice. I also said that we had it in mind to let Sir Geoffrey know of Mr Penrose's approach. Mr Dalton agreed that this would be right.
2. I then telephoned Sir Geoffrey (352 9488) who said that he was in the process of writing a letter to the PUS which he plans to deliver to the Office tomorrow morning. The letter would report that two journalists named Penrose had tackled him this morning (one for the Daily Mirror and the other a freelance working under Mirror auspices). They had told him that they had very detailed information about the circumstances of his return from Moscow in August 1968. One of them had mentioned Joe Haines in this connection. They said that they had also been in touch with the former Foreign Secretary, Michael Stewart, and with a senior diplomat who had both confirmed that there had been an "incident". Sir Geoffrey decided that his best course in the circumstances would be to speak to the journalists off the record, broadly confirming the matter, with a view to ensuring that the story was not over-exaggerated. He had subsequently heard from the Penrose employed by the Daily Mirror that the editor had decided not to publish.
3. Sir Geoffrey said that he would be reached at home (352 9488) until 7.15 this evening, or after about 11 p.m. He could also be reached at the same number tomorrow prior to about 10.30 a.m and after 4 p.m. (He did not say this in a way which suggested that he would want or expect a further telephone call, but for information, when I indicated that I would try and let the PUS know this evening of our conversation.)

J. Salter

I S Winchester
Security Department
M 408 273 5627

20 November 1979

SECRET



Mr Winchester,
Security Department

1. Mr Peter Dalton has just telephoned. He is a retired diplomat, his last post was Moscow in 1968/69. He was Chargé d'Affaires on 28 August 1968 at the time of the Czechoslovak crisis.
2. Mr Dalton has been approached by a Mr Penrose who said he was concerned with reporting on Czechoslovakia in 1968 and is working on an article connected with that time. He would like to talk to Mr Dalton since he understood Mr Dalton had been present in Moscow when Sir G Harrison was peremptorily recalled to London. Mr Penrose wanted to know the reason for this recall and referred to stories about an "affair with a chambermaid". Mr Dalton stalled and made no comment. Mr Penrose pressed him to say Sir G Harrison had been prematurely recalled and Mr Dalton denied this.
3. However Mr Penrose has asked for a personal interview with Mr Dalton and said he would notify News Department and get in touch with him again. Mr Dalton in turn said he would notify the FCO of this enquiry.
4. Mr Dalton would be grateful for some instructions as to how to handle this enquiry. His telephone number is Mayfield (04355) 3421.

Sheila M Waghorn

Sheila M Waghorn
APS/PUS

19 November 1979

SECRET & PERSONAL

P17 68/79

PRIME MINISTER

Sir Geoffrey Harrison

A telegram was received last night from Sir Geoffrey Harrison in Moscow to say that owing to an indiscretion he has come under K.G.B. pressure. He reports as follows:

"This morning K.G.B. agent disclosed herself as such. She then asked me for the details of personnel and organisation of this Embassy's counter-intelligence system claiming to have compromising photographs which she would hand over to me if I complied with her request. I refused point blank. She then said that she would have to hand over the matter to her superior".

2. Sir Geoffrey Harrison was due to leave Moscow on retirement by car on 28 August. He realised that we might want him to stay on during the present crisis but in the circumstances he is quite clear that he must return to the United Kingdom at once. The earliest flight will be on Sunday, 25 August, arriving in the early evening. I have agreed that he should do this and he will report on arrival all the circumstances to Sir Denis Greenhill.

3. As you will recall, we discussed the possibility of recalling him for consultations. I have therefore instructed him to say in answer to questions in Moscow that he is returning by air in advance of his planned date in order to consult with me before the Debate on Czechoslovakia on

/Monday

SECRET & PERSONAL

Sir D Greenhill

Seen by me P.M.

M.V.

SECRET & PERSONAL

Monday next. Foreign Office News Department will, of course, confirm this when they are tackled.

4. I have informed the Director-General of the Security Services and "C" of what has occurred and their people will be available as appropriate.

5. In the circumstances of the present Czech crisis, I think it would be a mistake for the Embassy in Moscow to remain in charge of the Minister for any length of time. I therefore propose to accelerate the departure of Sir Duncan Wilson who prior to the crisis had planned to leave at the beginning of October.

22 August, 1968

Copies to: 'C'
Sir M. Funnival Jones
Sir Colin Crowe
Sir Denis Greenidge

2 Copies destroyed
BML
3/5

SECRET

Security Debate
Briefing 21-11-79.

PA

(out)

Sir Frederick Warner: "The Fifth Man"

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9A

Line to Take

We have absolutely no reason to believe that there is any truth in the allegations about Sir Frederick Warner.

Background Note

Joined the Foreign Service 1946.

1948, Private Secretary to Hector McNeil, Minister of State, Foreign Office.

Burgess was his assistant in the Private Office and became a close friend. After Burgess defected this was referred to in the press and there was a clear suggestion that this implied treasonable association. The Security Service investigated the case but found no evidence to support this. Because he was a close friend of Burgess it was also suggested that he was a homosexual. At interview in the Foreign Office he categorically denied that he had ever engaged in homosexual practices. He married in 1971 and has a young family.

SECRET