

CONFIDENTIAL

F.

Ref. A086/3326

MR WICKS

Peter Wright Case

Last night I received a telephone call from Lord Rothschild referring me to yesterday's article in the Sunday Express by Chapman Pincher. Lord Rothschild said that the article was "very accurate" and suggested that it be sent to Sydney where it might be of help in furthering the Government's case. This had, in fact, already been done.

2. I am copying this minute, with copies of the Pincher article, to the Private Secretaries to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, the Home Secretary and the Attorney General, and to Mr Mallaby (Cabinet Office).

T A Woolley

T A WOOLLEY

1 December 1986

CONFIDENTIAL



SUNDAY EXPRESS

NOVEMBER 30 1986

How Neil Kinnock & Co were fed

SPIES AND

NOW THE

by Chapman Pincher



LORD ROTHSCHILD is certainly no spy. Ex-MI5's Peter Wright wrote his book because he was poor. Australian lawyer Malcolm Turnbull is ambitious, and Neil Kinnock and his Labour colleagues are being exploited as long-distance fall-guys.

My two best-selling books, *Their Trade is Treachery* and *Too Secret Too Long*, were neither written with help from senior Ministers or the former head of MI6, nor steered to publication by members of the Cabinet.

The first book was probably cleared by the senior lawyers of MI5 and MI6, taking the view that opposition in court would result in too many damaging public omissions.

And the Attorney General, Sir Michael Havers, has never volunteered me inside information about MI5.

Smear

I can tell you this because I have been at the centre of the spy furor which is now headlines round the world.

And I know the facts. Maverick lawyer Turnbull is feeding Labour politicians a mixture of disinformation and fabrications to damage the British position in the attempt to prevent Peter Wright, a former MI5 officer from publishing his memoirs.

The MPs are swallowing it without proper examination for the party political purpose of smearing individual Ministers. As the truth unfolds when Wright is cross-examined this week they will realise that they have been bamboozled.

Phone

I know this to be true because Turnbull himself has described his game-plan to me in telephone calls. I have further confirmation from a British newspaper which is serving as the conduit between Turnbull and Labour back benchers, including Dale Campbell-Savours MP for Workington.

Kinnock claimed on Friday that he had checked the information he had used with Turnbull, the originator of the campaign.

Fabrication No 1 is the myth that Lord Rothschild and I

"corrupted" Wright into providing a mass of secret information for my book, *Their Trade is Treachery*, published in March 1981.

Turnbull has telephoned me twice to tell me in the blindest terms that the Labour Party would be making this claim, as he would later in the court.

The truth is that Wright had already written 10,000 words of a book which he brought to Britain in August 1980. I had never heard of Wright or discussed his book with Rothschild before I met Wright during that visit.

Words

At that meeting it was Wright, not Rothschild, who suggested that I should write his book for him in return for 50 per cent of the royalties.

He told me about the 10,000 words he had written and later gave them to me when I visited his home in Tasmania.

Fabrication No 2 is the assertion that Rothschild had brought Wright over on a subterfuge, when his real purpose was to suggest that

he should write a book about the Hollis scandal.

The truth is that Rothschild paid the first class fares of Wright and his wife to Britain because of damaging publicity which Rothschild was receiving following the exposure of his former friend, Anthony Blunt, as a Soviet spy.

People were suggesting that Rothschild himself had been a spy, and against the day when he might need to reply Rothschild asked Wright to prepare a statement about the secret work which Rothschild had done for MI5.

Wright did so and Rothschild still has it for possible use to prove, beyond question, that he was involved in so many anti-Soviet operations, including the exposure of Philby, that he could not possibly have been a KGB agent.

It was Wright who introduced the subject of Sir Roger Hollis with Rothschild who had little interest in it.

Letter

In fact, in a letter Rothschild sent to me and which is still in my possession, he had tried to dissuade me from continuing my inquiries into Hollis's alleged treachery, which he did not seem to believe.

Fabrication No 3 is Turnbull's allegation that Rothschild and I were in collusion with the Government which wanted the book published to get all the security scandals out of the cupboard.

No Minister or civil servant was involved with me at any stage before the book was finished. On the contrary, the most rigorous steps were taken to ensure that none would hear of it. Despite this we learned that the Cabinet Office had got hold of a set of proofs two weeks before publication.

Wright has stated that Rothschild discussed security matters with Mrs Thatcher

shortly before she became Prime Minister. I am assured that no such meeting occurred.

Turnbull's Disinformation Exercise No 1 was based on an extract from a confidential letter sent by me to Wright and passed by Turnbull to a British newspaper reporter for onward transmission to Campbell Savours who read it in the Commons.

It referred to a two-minute conversation I had with Attorney General Sir Michael Havers over a cup of soup on a pheasant shoot.

I told Havers what I already knew about a public case in which he had secured an injunction to hold up a book by another author (Nigel West) and he confirmed it.

Turnbull told the court—and some Labour MPs have "bought" it—that Havers had then given me the basis for my recent 638-page book, *Too Secret Too Long!*

The truth is that Havers volunteered nothing, then or since and is thus being maligned by the Labour Party.

Dirt

Disinformation Exercise No 2—also leaked by Turnbull from a confidential letter of mine to Wright—refers to a lunch I gave to Sir Arthur Franks, a former chief of MI6, Secret Intelligence Service.

Labour MPs are claiming that Franks, leaked information to me and have demanded an inquiry.

The truth is that I was giving some confidential information to Franks, who was then retired, so that he could pass it on to MI6.

He gave his personal view as to why *Their Trade is Treachery* had not been suppressed but told me no secrets and I have never seen him since.

In a telephone conversation on Saturday November 22 Turnbull explained that the British Government had been playing so "dirty" that he was playing dirty too.

When I asked if it mattered that Wright's old friends like Rothschild might suffer, he said that it did not because this was a do or die case which had to be won at all cost.

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EXCLUSIVE

IN YOUR SUNDAY EXPRESS

VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

KIDNAP

JENNIFER GUINNESS TELLS HOW SHE SURVIVED HER ORDEAL

MURDER

THE SEVENTY YEAR OLD WHO DIED AT THE HANDS OF A BRUTAL THUG

PAGE 7



How 30 seconds in a laundrette made Nick Kamen a megastar

PAGE 9

WIN

MADDOCKS ON SUNDAY



Is that Neil Kinnock?
—I hear you're also
stuck up a gum tree...

HOW I MET WRIGHT The full details: Page 3

Only one



CHAPMAN PINCHER

THE MAN WHO WAS THERE, TELLS HOW THAT SPY BOOK REALLY CAME TO BE WRITTEN

Great Clam of Chowder

ONE OUTSTANDING fact lies behind the messy spy book case in Sydney and the Labour attacks on the Government arising from it.

Peter Wright left MI5 after almost 20 years distinguished service with an unprecedented load of super-secrets and a pension of only £2,000 a year.

His friend Lord Rothschild was so concerned that he did all he could at the highest possible levels to secure a better pension, but he was told by the Treasury that nothing could be done because it would break the rules and create a precedent. Wright's bleak situation arose

because he had left MI5, which he joined in 1955, after only 15 years' full service.

His immediate problem was solved temporarily in 1970 when he was re-employed by MI5 as a personal assistant to the Director General, Sir Michael Hanley, a position giving him access to more highly sensitive secrets.

But when he left completely in 1976 those extra years did not count as fully pensionable service.

In 1980 he was living in appalling circumstances in the village of Cygnet, Tasmania, where he had emigrated to be near his daughter.

The small Arab horse stud he had started to eke out his pension was threatened with bankruptcy. He was seriously ill and fearful of leaving his overworked wife, Lois, in penury.

So the temptation to solve his problems by using his secret knowledge to earn money through a book was irresistible.

By the summer of 1980 he had written 10,000 words of a book exposing secret details of the Soviet penetration of Britain's secret services. But because of his frailty and so much work on the stud farm he knew that, without a professional writer, the book might not be completed before he died.

He might have secured a ghost writer in Australia, but he received a letter from Lord Rothschild who needed to discuss attacks on his own integrity with him and was willing to finance his first class travel for that purpose.

SCIENTIST

Rothschild, a distinguished scientist, had first met Wright, also a scientist through an academic connection and they had become friends, having the joint interest of MI5 in which Rothschild had also worked and with which he maintained a connection.

Wright told me later that, following the exposure of Anthony Blunt, who had been a friend of Rothschild, articles had been appearing in the British media suggesting that Rothschild had been a Soviet agent himself.

Rothschild had turned to Wright for advice on how best to deal with the allegations, which were untrue, and to provide a document detailing his career which would prove his loyalty.

Wright decided that he would also take the 10,000 words of his book with him to show to Rothschild, and the fact that he did so disposes totally of Wright's claim in Sydney last week that it was Rothschild who suggested that he should write a book.

Wright claimed that to a blue material he showed to Rothschild was about the

My name for Lord Rothschild who was so tight lipped

Hollis case. But when I examined the 10,000 words when I eventually visited Wright in Tasmania, they contained no mention of Hollis. He had not reached the time of the Hollis case in his book.

After their private talk about Lord Rothschild's problem, Wright told Rothschild about his severe financial difficulties and that he had decided to resolve it by writing a book which would also expose the Hollis case and other scandals which had been covered up.

Realising that Wright was determined to publish a book, Rothschild suggested me as a collaborator. I had been a friend of Lord Rothschild for several years, having first met him socially. He was not a source of information, and in fact was so tight lipped and secretive I used to call him the Great Clam of Chowder.

I had never even heard of Wright, but he knew a lot about me, having investigated some of my Defence Ministry sources and he agreed that I would be suitable.

Lord Rothschild did not know that I was at home, but he telephoned me in Berkshire

FISHING

He was lucky to find me in because my wife and I were preparing to spend the evening trout fishing.

In cryptic language Lord Rothschild told me that a man, who was obviously a former secret service officer, wished to see me.

Such opportunities are so rare that I immediately accepted and met the man later that evening at Lord Rothschild's home in Cambridge. He turned out to be Peter Wright.

These circumstances, for which my wife and Lord Rothschild can vouch, destroy Wright's claims that I knew in advance that he was coming and had discussed meeting him with Lord Rothschild.

Left alone with him, Wright explained that he was in desperate need of £5,000 to save his stud farm from bankruptcy.

He told me about the 10,000

words but would not let me see them at that stage. Instead I was shown a list of traitors with which he proposed to deal. It included Hollis.

Wright, and Wright alone, suggested that I should write a book on information he would provide and that we should share the proceeds.

I told him that I would be interested in collaborating, but I could have nothing to do with providing any money.

If a book proved profitable and could safely be published I would secure a contract with a reputable publisher who

would send in royalties in the normal way, as and when they became available.

Wright insisted that his name must never be mentioned in any contract as he did not want to be prevented from returning to Britain,

where he had a son and other relatives. He wanted me to sign a statement that I would pay him a half share, but I declined.

What was Lord Rothschild's motive in suggesting me as a collaborator?

I am convinced that his purpose was to prevent Wright himself from producing a book which would be far more damaging to MI5 than a book by me.

He knew from the 10,000 words that Wright was determined to produce a book, and Wright had stressed his severe financial problems.

Turnbull's argument to me on the telephone was that if Lord Rothschild had only wanted to help Wright, he could easily have given him £30,000. In this he shows his inexperience. Rich men are disinclined to give money away.

I spent two weeks with Wright in Tasmania in October 1980, paying my fare and expenses out of my own pocket.

The extent of Wright's

knowledge was probably unique. He had been involved in Russian counter espionage from 1955 to 1976—longer than any other MI5 officer and because of his technical ability was concerned with bugging operations.

I told Wright he could receive no money until a contract had been signed when he would get his half share at the normal advance payment.

I secured a contract on December 12, 1980.

My only connection with the payments was in dealing with Wright's cables and letters asking me to expedite them.

Two days before publication of the book on March 21, 1981, the publisher received a written assurance from Sir Robert Armstrong, the Cabinet Secretary, that there would be no interference with its publication and asking for two copies for the Prime Minister.

We did not know then that the Cabinet Office had been in possession of page proofs for several weeks.

One reason for that decision now being suggested is that my book would "draw Wright's teeth."

It would also have been politically controversial to gag a well-known journalist—much more so than an ex MI5 man who had signed the Official Secrets Act.

After the success of *Their Trade is Treachery*, Wright suggested another joint book to be called *The Atlantic Connection*, about Anglo-American intelligence relations, but it came to nothing.

TWICE

He then suggested newspaper articles for which he would provide information, but I rejected that. He also suggested a book solely on the Hollis case, but I told him there was not enough new material.

Shortly afterwards, Wright ended all correspondence and I have never heard from him since.

Wright had no involvement in my 1984 book *Too Secret Too Long*, which was about the need for external supervision of the secret services and was written after our relationship ceased.

Nevertheless, Malcolm Turnbull telephoned me to ask why I had not sent Wright half the proceeds.

I told Turnbull that Wright could not expect to be paid twice for the same material which was available to anybody one *Their Trade is Treachery* had been published.

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WHO'S WHO IN THE SPY BOOK CASE



PETER WRIGHT
Former MI5 man who hit hard times, and wants to publish his memoirs.



LORD ROTHSCHILD
MI5 man suspected of spying who wanted Wright to help him clear his name.



MALCOLM TURNBULL
Maverick Australian lawyer representing Peter Wright in the spy book case in Sydney.



SIR ROGER HOLLIS
A former head of MI5, who is now suspected of being a Soviet agent.



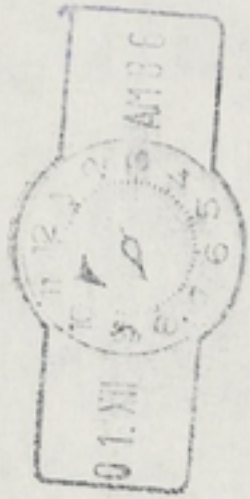
SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG
Cabinet Secretary who asked for two copies of the Pincher spy book for Mrs Thatcher.



DALE CAMPBELL-SAVOURS, MP
The member for Worthington who is spy case spokesman for Labour in the Commons.



Peter Wright pictured with his wife in Sydney



SPIES AND LIES: NOW THE TRUTH

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**How 30
seconds in a
laundrette
made Nick
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**by Chapman
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Lovers with an evil secret



Moors killers picnic in a leafy glade

ARMS around each other, two happy lovers frolic in a leafy glade on a sparkling English summer's day.

But their smiles hide a secret that was to horrify the world.

For they are sadistic child killers.

Evil Moors murderers Myra Hindley and Ian Brady pose unconcerned for this never-before-published picture.

It was taken in 1965—the year they were arrested for the murders of 10-year-old Lesley Ann Downey and John Kilbride.

**BRITAIN'S
SPACE HOPE**

A REVOLUTIONARY new space flight vehicle being developed in Britain could mean we launch our own "Star Wars" system.

NATO bosses are currently considering the system—the brain child of British experts—which could offer an alternative to the Trident nuclear

Police now looking for the bodies of two other children, 16-year-old Pauline Reade and Keith Bennett, 12, have unsuccessfully searched the glade.

It is believed to be one of the spots police want Hindley to visit if she is released from Cookham Wood jail in Kent to help police in their new hunt.

But plans to smuggle Hindley to the moors disguised as a police officer—for fear of retaliation from grief-stricken relatives of the victims—have come under fire.