



September 2002

Recent Releases at the Public Record Office

PRO reference	Date	Description
AB 16/235	1951-56	Records of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority and its predecessors: Work on atomic energy in Russia <i>A Soviet broadcast on USSR atomic policy</i>
AB 16/3740	1964	United Kingdom nuclear exports; export of non fissile materials <i>A request to be informed of uranium sales to a variety of countries</i>
AB 45/13	1962-64	Nuclear submarines safety considerations
AIR 40/2838	1945	Records created or inherited by the Air Ministry, the Royal Air Force, and related bodies: Lists and details of files belonging to Generalfeldmarschal Milch, Quartermaster General of the Luftwaffe until June 1944
AT 81/1	1970	Records created or inherited by the Department of the Environment, and of related bodies: Urban programme: Prime ministerial meetings and visits: contains consideration of proposal for multi-racial employment agency put forward by Mrs Coretta King, widow of Rev Dr Martin Luther King
AT 81/2	1970	Concentration and dispersal of Commonwealth immigrants: study of situation and possible ways forward and comparison with the situation in the Netherlands
DEFE 7/2128	1962-64	Records of the Ministry of Defence: French nuclear deterrent: policy
DFFF	1965-68	Working party on security restrictions on the collection

10/610		and publication of information in the UK (SPI): Minutes of meetings and memoranda
ED 273/60	1966-70	Records created or inherited by the Department of Education and Science, and of related bodies: Radioactive Substances Advisory Committee Miscellaneous Sources Panel: Proposals by South Western Gas Board to use radioactive tracers to measure flow of gas in distribution mains; approval of tests
ED 273/65	1968-70	Radioactive Substances Advisory Committee Miscellaneous Sources Panel: x-radiation from colour television receivers
FCO 49/369	1971	Records of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and predecessors: HM The Queen's speeches for opening and prorogation of Parliament
FCO 68/332	1971	Provisional minutes of Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Meeting in Singapore, 12-22 January 1971
FCO 68/341	1971	Reform of procedures at plenary sessions of Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Meeting
FCO 68/354	1970-71	Discussions on Consular representation within the Commonwealth
FO 93/46/242	2000	Exchange of Notes extending the duration of the Agreement of 18 September 1998 concerning A Scottish trial in the Netherlands; Place of Signing: The Hague
FO 93/171/35	1998	Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of Ireland establishing a North/South Ministerial Council; place of signing: Dublin
FO 93/171/39	1998	Exchange of Letters between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of Ireland concerning the interpretation of certain terms in the Agreement establishing Implementation Bodies; place of signing: Dublin
HO 325/16	1944	Records created or inherited by the Home Office: Security Service: memorandum on functions <i>Includes the proposition of transferring security service functions to the Special Branch of the Police</i>
HO 325/17	1945	Security Service: consideration of transfer to police of certain functions <i>Letter from Sir David Petrie (first Director General of MI5) objecting to the possible transfer</i>

HO 325/21	1950	Use of military troops in aid of civil powers: collection of memoranda dating back to 1910; comments dated 1950; speaking notes for Home Office representative attending conference in Germany
HO 325/26	1962	Essential supplies and services; machinery for dealing with strikes in light of incomes policy by Chancellor of Exchequer; review; submission to Home Secretary
DO 134/44	1971	Pakistan relations with the UK
HO 325/28	1962	Accidents with nuclear weapons: use of Emergencies Organisation machinery: references to Emergency Committees <i>Discussions on which department should deal with nuclear emergencies/fallout etc</i>
HO 325/65	1967	Travel restrictions: visit of Russian Service Attaches to Cornwall; need for enforcement by police of Travel Notification Scheme <i>Police difficulties with Soviet ambassadors in the Travel Notification scheme</i>
HO 325/79	1969	RUC (Royal Ulster Constabulary): request to Home Office for supply of CS gas (named after inventors Cotson and Stoughton); note on use and effects of gas; permission to use flight of Wessex helicopters for rapid transport in emergency
HO 325/125	1969	Anti-apartheid groups: South African Springboks rugby tour in UK from November 1969-January 1970; meeting of Home Secretary with Chief Constables to discuss police role at matches
HO 325/126	1969	Student unrest (left wing) at London School of Economics (LSE) in January 1969: iron gates removed and sit-in held; other demonstrations; arrests; police reports
HO 325/128	1970	Student unrest: Prime Minister's meeting with Vice-Chancellors of universities on 15 April 1970; agenda included police law and practice; also co-operation with police both inside and outside university premises; drafting of papers by Home Office
HO 325/129	1970	Student unrest: Prime Minister's meeting with Vice-Chancellors of universities, 15 April 1970; proposal for independent enquiry into student unrest; laid aside pending General Election 1970
HO 325/132	1970	Civil unrest: military assistance to civil authorities; Working Party on Internal security Tactical Doctrine set up by Ministry of Defence (MOD): based on experiences

		in Northern Ireland
HO 325/149	1958	CND (Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament): march from London to Aldermaston on Good Friday, 4 April 1958 against nuclear weapons; picketing was to take place for one week
HO 325/150	1957	Official Committee on Emergencies: Civil Emergencies Organisation; review of state of preparedness; report
HO 325/152	1957	Essential supplies and services in event of industrial disputes in shipbuilding industry, electricity supply and railways; contingency plans; possible use of military servicemen
HO 325/153	1962	Review of plans for dealing with extended strikes: electricity supply industry
HO 325/161	1959-60	Parliamentary Question: investigation into exploitation of tenants by landlord in Notting Hill, London
HO 325/165	1964	Race Relations Act 1965: racial incitement and discrimination; framing of legislation; initial consultations with Director of Public Prosecutions and Commissioner of Police; reference to Public Order Act 1936
HO 326/233	1939-47	Channel Islands: No 20 Civil Affairs Unit; Directives, Instructions and Plans
JE 1/144	2002	Records of the Office of the National Lottery: Licences 'Lucky Duck' Instant scratch cards game
PREM 15/628	1970	Records of the Prime Minister's Office: Royal Family: Discussions on Civil List <i>How it should be funded: by annual voting or index-linking etc</i>
WO 158/995	1915-20	Records created or inherited by the War Office: Special Orders of the Day by Commander-in-Chief British Armies in France, and General Officer Commanding British troops in France and Flanders
WO 396/110	1849	Views of various sites for coastal defence in the Exeter (Devon) district
WORK 54/18	1945-60	Acquisition of pictures executed by Second World War artists

AB 16/235**1951-56 Work on Atomic energy in Russia**

The major item in this file is a transcript of a Soviet broadcast from September 1951, towards the end of the Stalinist era. A contemporary note in the file suggests that this is an unusual piece of propaganda, as it claims that Soviet scientists have made a number of important discoveries towards the production of atomic energy. Ironically the broadcast contains the additional comment:

'At such a time when the Soviet people are engaged in peaceful and creative labor, great sums of money and resources are being expended in the U.S. for the production of atomic weapons. The Soviet government, time and again, has proposed a ban on atomic weapons'.

Decades of arms race and Cold War were to follow, before arms limitation talks even began.

GOPY

*Broadcast Monitor report
forwarded from Tokyo
SECRET*

PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE ANALYSIS

~~DECLASSIFIED~~ Set

Selected Items for the Information of
Commanders and Staffs of the United Nations
and Far East Command

FOREIGN RADIO BROADCAST TRENDS

No. 3296
18 Sep

1. USSR:

a. "Peaceful Utilization of Atomic Power:" Radio Petropavlovsk broadcast a special program on which the question: "What are the possibilities for the peaceful utilization of atomic power?" was discussed. The radio said: "It is the conjecture of Soviet scientific workers that technical progress in this sphere could develop in two directions. The first of these is the extraction and the utilization of synthetic radioactive substances from ordinary, not radioactive elements. With the help of suitable installations, various radioactive compounds could be produced similar in their characteristics, to that very element, radium. Such synthetic radioactive substances, in turn, would permit the realization of a number of research experiments and the application of new methods of controlling production and technological processes in production. For example, radioactive substances are even now being utilized in uncovering of blisters and flaws in machine parts". The broadcast added, "synthetic radioactive substances would be of great significance in the development of research in biology and medicine, as well as in medical treatment....such as treatment of malignant tumors.

"Secondly, peaceful utilization of atomic power applied in the form of a source of motive power is also possible....for propelling airplanes, maritime vessels, and other means of transportation, including jet devices intended for flights beyond the terrestrial atmosphere. It is most important to note that there are many difficulties of a technical nature connected with the utilization of atomic energy as a source of motive power.

"Further mastery of the science of atomic power will lead to an enormous expansion of experimental research into the substance of matter. It would be possible to reconstruct the conditions of the substance of matter in some stars at extremely high temperatures and pressures with the aid of atomic power. This would permit the clarification of a number of questions of great importance in regards to the origin and development of celestial bodies.

"In our country", continued the report, "as nowhere else in the world, conditions are exceptionally favourable for the progress of science and technology. Thanks to the tireless solicitude of the Communist Party, the Soviet Government, and Comrade Stalin himself, Soviet scientists are able to move ahead successfully in such an important branch of science as the physics of the atom nucleus.

"Continuing the development of the glorious traditions of the native theory of the atom established by the Russian scientists of genius, Mikhail, Vasilievich, Lomonosov, and Dimitri Ivanovich Mendeleev, the scientists of our country are achieving ever new successes in their work.

/"In

"In the Communist society, atomic power, enormous reserves of which have been discovered in mineral resources, will usher in a new era in the development of productive powers and will become one of the basic factors in scientific and technical progress.

"At such a time when the Soviet people are engaged in peaceful and creative labor, great sums of money and resources are being expended in the U.S. for the production of atomic weapons. The Soviet Government, time and again, has proposed a ban on atomic weapons and the establishment of a control for the carrying out of this ban. But these proposals were invariably rejected by the Government of the U.S....Only in such a case can atomic power become a means not to further the adventurous plans of the instigators of a new war, but a powerful means for increasing man's power over nature throughout the world".

The broadcast added that additional details on the possibilities of peaceful utilization of atomic power can be found in articles published in the third volume of the new issue of the "great Soviet encyclopedia", and in the book by Professor (Karpynsky?), "The Atom Nucleus". (a)

Comment: This type of discussion is rare in Soviet broadcasts. In addition to claims of discovery, it offers assurance to the Russian people that the USSR is rich in necessary resources and technicians for production of atomic energy.

(a) FBIS Monitoring Rpt - 6 Sep 51.

HO 325/17

1945 Security Service: consideration of transfer to police of certain functions
Before October 1931, Special Branch of the police had the responsibility for monitoring subversives and Communists, as well as other threats to national security. This was then transferred to the Security Service (MI5).

In HO 325/16 (1944) there is a report from the Home Office suggesting that this function should be transferred back to the police. In HO 325/17 Sir David Petrie, Director General of MI5, and previously chief of the police in India, offers his opinion in no uncertain terms. The whole letter is reproduced below, where Petrie casts doubt on the 'mental equipment' of the police, and reflects on 'the ugly question of corruption', amongst other concerns.

~~TOP SECRET~~

Sir F. Newman Done
seen (hand)
Jan 24/2

Telephone Nos.
REGENT 8650.
WHITEHALL 8789.

BOX No. 500.
PARLIAMENT STREET B.O.,
LONDON, S.W.1.

91/1/2/Mis/14/DG

21st February 1945.

PERSONAL.

Thanks.
Said had not heard
of his suggestion as to what
the letter is about, but
was glad to hear
of Sir Donald's views
for record
W.H. 23/2

My dear Maxwell,

You will perhaps remember, that on the occasion of my first visit to you in Westminster Hospital, I mentioned there had been some talk in certain Police circles that, after the war was over, the task of keeping a general watch on Communism (and, I think, subversory activities generally) should be taken out of the hands of M.I.5 and made over to the Police. I do not suggest such talk was general or representative, and indeed I fancy I know who is the founder of this school of thought, and who are his more prominent disciples, although that is another story. Equally, I am not sure whether statements were made that this was something that was going to be done, or merely something that ought to be done. Probably talk has ranged over both these points. It is enough for my present purpose to say that the subject has been mooted and has a certain number of supporters.

As this question is one that may sooner or later come before the Home Office, I feel that I ought to leave on record my own views on it, as I am unlikely to be a participant in any discussions that may take place.

My own view, which I can state quite unequivocally, is that the Home Office will make a grievous mistake if ever they divorce M.I.5 from its present activities, even assuming the Service Departments would agree to this. There are a number of weighty reasons behind me, some of which I will proceed to give you.

The first is that it is my considered opinion that the Police by themselves are not competent to take over what M.I.5 now does. I would ask you to remember that I am a professional Police Officer, and that, besides holding for several years the senior appointment in the whole Indian Police, I have had a very wide and varied experience of the Police Forces in many different countries, finishing up with some four years' close acquaintance with them in this country. I am thus in no way pre-disposed to be a detractor of men of my own totem. I am convinced, however, that you want for the broader aspects of the subject as also for the more general purposes of the Home Office, a number of Officers of a different calibre from the generality of Police Officers in this country, not excepting the higher ranks. You need, in fact, people with much the same educational background and the same mental equipment as you employ in the higher grades of the Civil Service. I am not suggesting that among Chief Constables, County rather than Borough, you will not find some individuals who need fear no comparison in this respect. But most of them are heavily loaded down with their ordinary duties, and none of them is centrally situated as a man like Hollis is. Even if you were to decide to supplant the existing M.I.5 staff by a purely Police agency, you would have to detach it from any single force and set it up as a central independent unit, such as we ourselves are. It is an obvious point that there might be budgetary

Sir Alexander Maxwell, G.C.B., K.B.E.,
Home Office.

obstacles, to name no others, in the way of your doing this.

I must reach my next point in a somewhat round-about way. It has been represented to me by two Chief Constables of the persuasion I have mentioned that it would be impossible for the Police to continue, after the war, to do for M.I.5 what they have been doing during it, because it would have the effect of exposing the Police to the charge of watching and interfering in a political movement. I replied that it was a novel idea to me that an organisation which still relies on revolutionary violence as its ultimate weapon was to be regarded as in no way distinguishable from the other political parties in this country; I added that in any case the Security Service was not interested in Communism from a doctrinal or intellectual angle, but that when Communists set themselves to seduce fighting men from their loyalty, or to purloin secret information from Government Offices, then there arose a manifest security interest. What was not explained to me by the particular Chief Constable addressing me was how, if in future M.I.5 did less and the Police did more, it would help the latter to steer clear of any imputation of interference in political movements.

The view that M.I.5 should be divorced from Communism was robustly refuted by an older and more experienced Chief Constable whom I subsequently visited. He considered it was all to the good that M.I.5 should relieve the Police of this kind of duty, since it not only saved the force from exposure to charges of interfering in politics thereby jeopardising their good relations with the public in straight criminal matters, but also because M.I.5 could utilise agents and command methods and money, free from criticism in Parliament, which were not available to the Police, and which the Police were better not to have any knowledge of; generally speaking, a good Police Force, because of their local knowledge, could tell M.I.5 all they wanted to know of any individual, without any special inquiries, and so he was fully convinced that things, in the interests of all concerned, were much better left as they are. I feel I have now come round to my point that the Home Office will get more and better material under the existing system than if the Police took sole charge, which, for reasons hinted at, might lay the latter open to such public criticism and attack as would end in completely cramping their activities.

I now come to material available to the Security Service, but not to the Police. You are well aware how much we owe to the operation of Home Office Warrants and Telephone checks, to say nothing of material of an even more delicate nature. I personally doubt whether any Home Secretary would ever extend to the Police Forces any equivalent facilities. You could not hope to preserve, if such activities were turned over to the Police, the same degree of secrecy and uniformity of treatment as we manage to maintain. This is vital to the survival of these sources of information, for once they become "blown" or in any way matter of general knowledge, their extinction and complete loss would speedily follow. You will not get any great number of Police officers, even in the largest forces, of the calibre of the officers who handle this work in M.I.5, and in any case, such work, in the nature of things, has got to be devolved upon officers of lower rank who cannot always be expected to appreciate the need of complete secrecy in the same way as our staff do;

so much of Police investigations and proceedings, inasmuch as they so often have to come before the courts, have to be in the nature of an open book. There is also in the background the ugly question of corruption, on which I will say no more than ask you to cast your mind back to some of the material shown you by Harker and myself in the summer of 1943 and at subsequent periods.

But over and above material the production of which is under the control of the Home Office, M.I.5 receive from their sister organisation a great mass of highly confidential material drawn from their most secret sources. Even our use of that is jealously regulated by the controlling authority, and it is to my mind quite inconceivable that this material would ever under any conditions be put at the disposal of the Police. A special point here is the bearing of much of this stuff on the foreign end of Communist activities, which has often a no less important bearing on what is done in this country, and in the absence of which no organisation can ever hope to obtain as complete a picture as is needed.

The above are some of the considerations which seem to me to weigh decisively against any change, to say nothing of the fact that Police agency in the past has been tried and has not proved wholly satisfactory. I am not belittling in any way the part they now play and must continue to play in the watch over Communism and other subversive movements. Their assistance can never be dispensed with, for it is indeed indispensable, and no one can be more conscious of this than I am. As I see things, both the Police and M.I.5 are needed, neither will be effective if working in isolation. But their roles should be complementary, not competitive.

It may be that the question I am discussing may never come before you, but as I am quite clear that it has been mooted, it is possible that it may. In that case, I think it right in the public interest that I should leave with you, before I depart hence, a clear expression of the views which I have come to form from my own knowledge and experience.

Yours sincerely,

D. Petrie

PREM 15/628

According to The Guardian (27 September 2002) this file tells the story of “the most comprehensive attempt ever made to sort out Britain’s royal finances”. Martin Wainwright of The Guardian describes the correspondence relating to exchanges between 10 Downing Street and Buckingham Palace as “a catalogue of disagreement and miscalculation”. The documents, he says, “show concern within both the Wilson and the Heath governments that royal finances should be treated with discretion and as little public discussion as possible.”

PREM 15/628, a 1970 file from the Prime Minister’s Office, examines various options of how to fund the Royal Family’s expenses: through an index-linked Civil List (favoured by Buckingham Palace), self-funding (through the Duchy of Lancaster etc), annual voting by Parliament, or updated legislation, incorporating some elements of each option.

The Civil List, which covers the Queen’s official expenses, had been set at an annual rate of £475,000 at the start of her reign in 1952 but could not keep pace with the rapidly rising cost of living and was about to go into deficit. The Lord Chamberlain, Lord Cobbold, argued that the List should be index-linked but in a memorandum one senior civil servant wrote to the then Prime Minister Edward Heath that “When you are trying to following a restrictive policy on wages and salaries, it would be unfortunate to be appearing to give the Queen an automatic guarantee against inflation.” Civil servants argued that the idea of index-linking would be “excessively complicated” as it was not clear what index could be applied.

Reporting on the release of the file, BBC correspondent Paul Reynolds, said (“Making claims on the royal purse”, BBC Online, 26 September) that “there is a sense in these files, and others from the same time, that the Palace had to be better controlled. It was the start, perhaps, of the process of reforming the royal finances.”

When Mr Heath and Lord Cobbold met on 27 July 1970, “Mr Heath had been well-briefed by his officials” said Paul Reynolds “and index-linking did not progress.”