

PF 604,861

V1

PF 604,861

FILE CLOSED

PLAYFAIR, EDWARD

WILDER

FILE CLOSED

V1

TRAY No.

S. 924A Edn. 2

SEE ALSO LIST INSIDE COVER

Serial No	Star Designation	Date	Serial No	Star Designation	Date	Serial No	Star Designation	Date
KV2 / 4672								

S. 960 Edn2

PF 604,861

FILE CLOSED / V1

MINUTE SHEET

Reference.....P.F. 604,861.....

- 1.
- 3.6.34. Int. letter from Edward PLAYFAIR to John LEHMANN. (Copy). 1a.
- 2.
- 11.6.34. Copy of minute from S.9. to S.3.a. asking for passport papers for Dr. Ernest PLAYFAIR. 2a.
- 3.
- 19.6.34. Passport papers for Dr. Ernest PLAYFAIR sent from S.3.a.
- 4.
- 2.6.34. Copy of minute from S.9. to S.3.a. asking for passport papers for son of Dr. Ernest PLAYFAIR, later identified as Edward Wilder PLAYFAIR. 4a.
- 5.
- 3.7.34. Please see passport papers enclosed for Edward W. PLAYFAIR.  
S.3.(a).
- 6.
- 6.37. Ext. from int. letter from "Quentin" to Mrs. Yvonne KAPP, ment. PLAYFAIR. 7a.
- Nov. 9. 39 ~~Ext. from int. letter ment. PLAYFAIR to S.C.G. Hester Report.~~ 7b
- 8.1.40. Extract from ARNHEIM's HO File ment. PLAYFAIR 7c
- 6.2.40. Ext. from H.O. File re ARNHEIM 8. 8y
- 10.5.40. Ext. from summary of case of Charlotte ARNHEIM 8z
- July, 47. ~~Treasury Vetting Form in respect of PLAYFAIR.~~ 8a.
- 12.2.42. Ext. from Sec. Service note for H.O. Aliens' Dept. re ARNHEIM 8za
- July 1947. Treasury Vetting Form in respect of PLAYFAIR 8a
- 9.
- 21.7.52 Note for file ment. BLUNT and PLAYFAIR 9z
- Nov. 52. Ext. from "Who's Who" relating to Edward Wilder PLAYFAIR. 9a.
- 5.11.52 Copy of Minute from PF. 604,582 (BLUNT) ment. PLAYFAIR 9b

THIS IS A COPY  
 ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
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 ACT 1958 *October 2022*

(1682) Wt17252/1054  
 5/51 930,000 JC&S  
 Sp736/209  
 (INT)  
 34-0

[OVER

B.1.

I have now had this file made for PLAYFAIR. He was vetted (S.V.) in July 1947 and these traces were thrown up, but we replied N.R.A. As the result of the report made by Sir Anthony Bevir they have turned up again.

With reference to serial 1a, we have considerable records of LEHMANN during the 1930s. At that time he was in constant touch with Gerald HAMILTON and although possibly not technically a Communist he was certainly an active sympathiser. In 1933 he appears to have been acting in some sort of liaison capacity between anti-war and Communist circles in Paris and similar organisations in the United Kingdom. His views were at any rate sufficiently extreme for him to be regarded by PLAYFAIR as a Communist. In June 1951 he was interrogated by Jim Skardon in connection with the BURGESS and MACLEAN case. It is hard to say what is the correct interpretation of the intercept, the writer may have been interested in putting LEHMANN in touch with this young German in a Communist context or purely as an interesting political contact; it should, I think, also be borne in mind that LEHMANN was an active homosexual and this may possibly have some relevance.

The second intercept at serial 7a is from Quentin BELL to the well known Communist Yvonne KAPP. BELL was, I believe, the son of Vanessa BELL and was killed in the Spanish war. At the time that the letter was written, KAPP was active in Communist popular front activities on behalf of the Spanish Government and it seems quite probable that it is in connection with these activities that there had been some question of PLAYFAIR being of assistance; in itself, this trace might well have no security significance at all.

No. his brother  
Julian was killed

Presumably PLAYFAIR will be subjected to positive vetting and this should supply us with an opening for clearing up these traces. I think that we should inform Winnifrith straight away about this security record, slight though it is, since we shall want to know when PLAYFAIR is being positively vetted, moreover, I suppose there is a slight chance that a similar report from O'Malley (Bevir's informant) might come to Winnifrith's ears independently of us.

B.1.E.  
10.11.52.

*D.H. Whyte*  
David H. Whyte.

D.B.

This file contains the notes for Playfair to what I referred when I mentioned you in my conversation with Bevir. I then said I thought we should take no action but upon further consideration I agree with Whyte that we should speak to Winnifrith

B.

11/11

*Tomson*

MINUTE SHEET

Reference .....

14.

B.1.

Reference minutes 11 and 12, the two traces are, of course, explainable in terms of personal friendship. The Communist~~ix~~ and artistic circles of the time were so intermingled and LEHMANN belonged to both, as obviously BELL must have done as a hereditary descendant of the Bloomsbury set.

I do not see how Positive Vetting procedure gives you an opportunity to clear these matters up unless PLAYFAIR is questioned about them. The questionnaire would not oblige him to declare what Communist friends he had in 1934, though we do not, of course, know what he has to own up to. I agree that you should discuss it with Winnifrith and make sure of seeing PLAYFAIR's P.V. papers.

D.B. *D.G. White*  
17.11.52.

15.

B.1.E.

In accordance with the instructions contained in minute 14, will you please discuss this case with Winnifrith. You should not tell the latter how PLAYFAIR's name has currently come to notice, and I suggest you say that we have come across his name as a result of going through old records.

B.1. *Marriott*  
17.11.52. J.H.Marriott.

16.

19.11.52.

B.1.E. note of talk with Treasury about PLAYFAIR.

16a.

17.

B.1.

You may be interested to see at serial 16a a note of my conversation with Winnifrith about this case. Winnifrith was very sensible about the whole matter and I am sure we adopted the best course in going to him straight away.

B.1.E.  
19.11.52.

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*D.H. Whyte*  
David H. Whyte.

[OVER

D.B. *24/11*

18.

Further to your minute 14, you will be interested to see at 16a a note on Winnifrith's reactions to this case. I doubt if PLAYFAIR will put anything in writing about these associations of his, and I agree that if we want to clear them up we shall in due course have to question him. In this connection the point about the P.V. procedure is that it provides an atmosphere in which persons whose seniority is such that they would in ordinary circumstances understandably resent being questioned, can be asked in a friendly way about their private life without arousing their hostility and without making them feel that they are under suspicion. I think therefore that in due course PLAYFAIR ought to be questioned, not least because he is a potential source of information.

B.l.  
21.11.52.

*J.H. Marriott*  
J.H. Marriott.

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MINUTE SHEET

21

Original on PF 701,776 (D. H. HUBBACK)  
Copy on PF 604,861 (E. W. PLAYFAIR)

B.1.

The Treasury really are intolerably dilatory about dealing with their own security cases. This appears to be due to the fact that they are not getting on with their own P.V.

I mentioned this to Mr. Marriott and he suggested that this might be of interest to you. Could you please in due course return these files to me so that I can remind the Treasury.

B.1.E  
2.3.53.

*DHW*  
David H. Whyte.

22

.3.53.

To Treasury re PLAYFAIR

22a

23.

27.3.53.

B.1.E. note re conversation with Treasury about PLAYFAIR.

23a

24.

B.1.

We discussed this case briefly after my visit to the Treasury on 27th March. Do you agree that we should now inform the Treasury that we agree with their view of this case, i.e. that the traces for PLAYFAIR can be disregarded and the case closed?

B.1.E.  
2.4.53.

*R.C. Symonds*  
R.C. Symonds.

25.

B.1.E.

I did at one time think that PLAYFAIR ought to be questioned, but in view of the opinion which Winnifrith has already expressed about him I do not think that it would be possible to put this suggestion forward even if, which I now doubt, it had anything very much to recommend it. I agree therefore that you should write to the Treasury as you propose.

B.1.  
7.4.53.

*J.H. Marriott*  
J.H. Marriott.

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26.

9.4.53. To Treasury about PLAYFAIR.  
3 11.53 Extract from Note for File re PROCTOR  
14.11.55 Ext from T/C on BLUNDEN

26a  
26b  
26c

27.

26.3.56 Ext from Int. with REES

27z

When Mr. Skardon and I saw REES on 21 March in connection with the further enquiries we were making about Guy BURGESS, we asked REES if he could give us the names of any people who were close friends of BURGESS and who might have had some connection with his espionage activities. REES first suggested two names - those of John CAIRNCROSS and KESSLER. Both of these were, as you know, mixed up with BURGESS in his espionage work. The third name that REES suggested was that of Eddie PLAYFAIR.

PLAYFAIR is the subject of this file and his case has been carefully considered by the Security Service in previous years.

REES' suggestion does not I think add anything to the information already on record about PLAYFAIR. He has successfully passed the P.V. procedure and I do not think that we have any good grounds for re-opening his case.

Agree  
CM  
9.10.56

R.T. Reed

D.L.A.  
5.4.56.

29.

12.5.56. Cutting from Times re PLAYFAIR's appointment as P.U.S. War Office.

29a

30.

22.5.56. D.1. note re PICTON.

30a.

31.

23.5.56. C.1.B. (Mr. Reed) note re conversation with REES mentioning PICTON.

31a.

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ACT 1958

MINUTE SHEET

32.

D.G. I agree. No action.

From 28/5.

You asked me to examine the case of PLAYFAIR, in view of his new appointment, and to recommend whether any action is required.

I am satisfied that the decision reached at minute 25 and implemented at 26a was the right one in the light of the information that we then possessed.

The question remains whether the mention of PLAYFAIR's name by Goronwy REES introduces a substantial new factor. Reed has amplified in his note at 31a what he had recorded in minute 27. It seems clear to me that, in mentioning CAIRNCROSS, KESSLER, ZAEHNER, PLAYFAIR and REVAI in that particular context, REES was not speaking from any detailed knowledge but was making guesses which had no tangible basis. The fact that we believe that he was very likely right about two of these names (CAIRNCROSS and KESSLER) is no ground for supposing that he was right about any of the other three. One or both of two circumstances could have prompted REES's mention of PLAYFAIR's name: that he was acquainted with BURGESS and moved in circles (see 16a) which must have overlapped BURGESS's circle of acquaintances at many points; and that REES remembered BURGESS saying that he contemplated taking PLAYFAIR's advice over the Tangier incident in 1949. Neither of these circumstances need tell against PLAYFAIR.

From our record it appears that PLAYFAIR was probably left-wing and may have had homosexual tendencies as a young man. On the positive side, he has been for many years well known to a very large number of reputable people, none of whom has ever given the slightest reason for doubting his loyalty. He has survived a P.V. which may not, however, have gone further than completion of the questionnaire. Our pre-war record of him is known to Winnifrith. In my view no further action is required.

*G.R. Mitchell.*D.D.G.  
25.5.56.

G.R. Mitchell.

33.

5.6.56.

S.V. forms for PLAYFAIR.

33a

26.6.56.

Ext. from U.K.A.E.A. report re Prof. S. ZUCKERMAN ment. PLAYFAIR.

33b.

34.

16.7.56.

Note of D.G's visit to Mr. PLAYFAIR.

34a

14.8.62.

Ext. from F.I.A. report on interview with Mrs. Jennifer HART ment. PLAYFAIR.

34b.

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1962. Extract from Who's Who.

35a

36

21.8.63. Minute between DL and HR re amending

36a

37

23.3.64. H.R. minute to D.4.

37a

38

6.4.64. Minutes between D.4., D.D.G and H.R. re enlarging of circulation

38a

39

15.6.64. Ext. from Note for File

39a

40

16.6.64. NOTE FOR FILE

40a

41

17.6.64. Draft copy of Note for File re interview with Sir Edward PLAYFAIR

41a.

18.6.64 Letter from Sir Edward PLAYFAIR to R. A. Henley.

41a

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	42.	
12.7.64.	Ext. from interview with BLUNT	42y
22.7.64.	Letter from PLAYFAIR to R.A. Henley/D.3. re JOHNSTON	42z
23.7.64.	Note for file re Charles Morgan	42a
	43.	
10.9.64.	Extract from "Evening Standard"	43a
	44.	
10.9.64.	Extract from "Return of Directors"	44a
	45.	
11.2.65.	Extract from interview with BLUNT	45a
	46.	
18.3.65.	Extract from interview with BLUNT	46a
19.3.65m	Ext. from interview with Goronwy REES	46ab
22.4.65.	Extract from note Of interview with Mrs.REES.	46b

47.

*L 15/4/65*  
D.G. through D.9 *[Signature]*

In connection with our study of the BURGESS - MACLEAN - PHILBY galère I would like to interview Sir Edward PLAYFAIR.

2. Despite REES's allegation (serial 27z) there is no evidence that PLAYFAIR was ever a spy, but he knew well over a period of years various members of the BURGESS fraternity, and I would like to invite him to tell me what he knows.

3. I understand that you know him; if you approve of this project would you be willing to give me an introduction to him?

*Peter M. Wright*

P. M. Wright

D.3.  
14.4.65.

48.

5.5.65. To PLAYFAIR re appointment.

48a

49.

10.5.65. From PLAYFAIR.

49a

50.

12.5.65. Note for file.

50a

20.5.65 Note for File (filed under date of Interview).

50b

21.6.65. Ext. from Interview Report.

50c

51

14.9.65 Ext. from Note on Interview with KESSLER.

51a

22.2.66. Ext. from D.3. interview note mentioning subject.

52z.

*D.G. thro' D.3 & D. 9/3.*

*I understand that you wanted to see this file.*

- 2. I have faced my draft account of my interviews with PLAYFAIR last year & put it at 50z.*
- 3. I still don't know how to assess PLAYFAIR!*

*Peter N. Jones 4/7*

*D.3*

*7.3.66*

53.

*D.G.*

/assessed

I think PLAYFAIR's case, like PROCTOR's, should be by D. and F. to help you decide whether to speak to Sir Laurence Helsby about him.

*C.A.G. Simkins*

D.D.G.

C.A.G. Simkins

11.3.66.

~~D.~~  
~~F.~~  
—

I am doubtful whether we know sufficient about PLAYFAIR to make it sensible for me to say anything to Sir Laurence Helsby about him but if you disagree no doubt you will let me know.

D.G.

14th March 1966

*21.3*  
*55.*  
*173-*  
D.G. through F.

1. From the D. Branch point of view such case as there is against PLAYFAIR rests entirely on circumstantial evidence. He was one of the BURGESS circle, but so were a great many others. According to Winnifrith (16a) PLAYFAIR in 1952 had often referred to the fact that he knew BURGESS. When interviewed by D.3. in March 1966 (50z) he freely admitted that he saw a great deal of BURGESS in the 'thirties and although he and others decided after BURGESS' defection to lie low and say nothing, even this is a statement which he volunteered.

2. From D.3. study of the Cambridge galère, it is permissible to view with suspicion PLAYFAIR's assurance that he had never been approached to work for the Russians. With his admittedly very Left Wing views and considering the circle in which he was moving he would appear to have been a "natural". On the other hand he says he did not like BURGESS and this may have been mutual. BLUNT said that "Guy and Eddy never quite hit it off". (45a).

3. As regards PLAYFAIR's apparent misjudgments of BLUNT and others, this does not seem to me to be unnatural. Not all senior civil servants, however eminent, have this ability.

4. Subject to F's views, I would be strongly opposed to D.G. saying anything about PLAYFAIR to Sir Laurence Helsby. To do so would be unjust. It would also be tactically wrong.

  
A.M. MacDonald

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*September 2022*

16th March 1966

*19/21.3*  
Director-General.

The subject of this file (who incidentally is well-known to F.1.) is N.R.A. from the F. Branch point of view. Like D, I would advise against any approach to Helsby.

*R. Thistlethwaite*  
 R. Thistlethwaite.

F.

18 March 1966.

57

2.5.66. Extract from note of interview with BLUNT.

57a

58.

12.5.67. Extract from Report of Interviews with A.G.D. WATSON in January 1967.

58z

58a

26.7.67. "Times" Cutting.

8.10.67. "Observer" cutting.

13.10.67. Extract from "Private Eye".

58b  
58c

59

16.10.67 Note of D.G.'s conversation with [redacted]

59a

60.

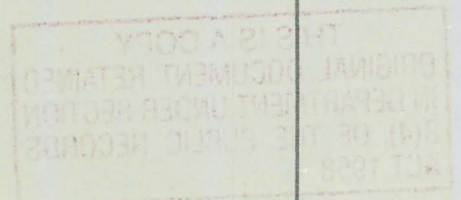
25.10.67 Note for file.

60a

61.

30.10.67. Note for file.

61a



	62.	
17.11.67.	D.3. source report.	62a
	63.	
29.2.68.	Extract from D.3. Note for File.	63a
	64	
25.4.68.	To PLAYFAIR	64a
	65	
7.5.68.	Interview report on PLAYFAIR	65z
7.5.68.	From PLAYFAIR	65a
8.5.69	Note re persons listed at 65a	65b
5.6.68	Ext. from report of interviews with SMOLLETT	65c
	66.	
25.11.68.	Ext. from Interview with Sir Henry LINTOTT	66z
26.11.68	Cutting from The Times.	66a
20.12.68	Ext from T/C	66b
12.3.69	Ext from T/C	66c
	67	
31.1.69	Ext from T/C	67a
	68	
3.3.69	Ext from T/C	68a

69

8.4.69

Ext. from note of interview of HAMPSHIRE

69a

70

2.6.69

Ext. from WHO's WHO

70a

71

6.6.69

Note of D.G.'s talk with Sir William Armstrong

71a

72

12.6.69

Note re Apostles

72a

73

13.6.69

Note re Cranium Club

73a

74

2.3.70.

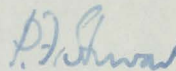
To A.4. Enquiry re Voters List

75

JKX

You will see from 162a, 163a and Minute 164 in POL.F.94-4-127 (attached) that Sir Edward PLAYFAIR has been put forward by the Home Office as a possible member of the special panel of the Immigration Appeal Tribunal - for which P.V. clearance is required. In the light of 71a in this PF it does not seem to me that we should agree to his name going forward.

2. I should be grateful, however, for advice on the terms in which we should couch our negative recommendation. Sir Edward is an ex-PUS who has had P.V clearance in the past and it might cause some embarrassment if at this stage in his career we gave the Home Office what could be interpreted as an indication of security doubts. You may wish to mention this to the D.G.



P. F. Stewart

K.3

4.3.70



D.G.

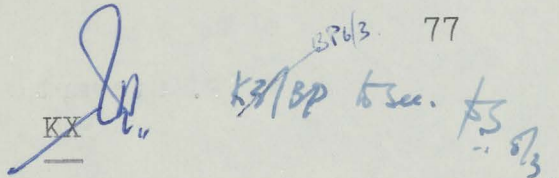
Please see minute 75. I am quite sure that we do not want PLAYFAIR on the special panel of the Immigration Appeal Tribunal. I agree with K.3. that it would not be appropriate to say as much to the Home Office. We must therefore find some way in which to quash this proposal without indicating to Bohan (who is an Assistant Secretary) that we have security objections. You may wish to consider whether this could be done by Sir William Armstrong who is fully cognisant of our views on PLAYFAIR. Alternatively it might be more appropriate to have a word with Philip Allen and get him to eliminate PLAYFAIR, perhaps on general grounds as at 'X' in para. 3 of 71a.



A.M. MacDonald

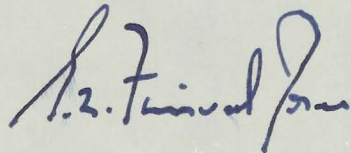
KX

4th March 1970

 KX  
K3/BP to sec. 77  
77  
75  
73

I spoke to Philip Allen this afternoon on the lines of my talk to William Armstrong at 71a, though somewhat more briefly, and he accepted without question that PLAYFAIR would not be a suitable nominee for the special panel of the Immigration Appeal Tribunal.

D.G.



4th March 1970

79

5.3.70.

From A.4. enquiry

779a

80

9.3.70

From A.4. enquiry

80a

81

10.3.70.

To W. J. Bohan Esq., Home Office

81a

82

17.3.70.

To A4 Voters List Enquiry

83

17.3.70.

Note for File

83a

84

9.4.70

Voters List re 21 High Point, North Hill, Highgate, N.6

84a

85

21.4.70.

Note for File

85a

86

6.5.70

Note for file

86a

FILE CLOSED

Previous vol. closed at 86a,  
dated 6.5.70.

Reference PF 604,861

87

K3/H.W.A. <sup>7032</sup> 25/6

Thank you. We have a stamp  
to add to your summary to  
87 assessment of PLAXFAIR  
F2/URG/ABW.  
23/6/70.

F.2/URG

You may like to see 86a another "Ring of Five" summary/  
assessment. Any comments would be welcome.

H.W. Arnold

K.3

H. W. Arnold

21 May, 1970.

88

~~21.6.65.~~

~~Ext. from interview report.~~

*Filed in Error.*

~~88a.~~

7.10.70

Extract from T/C on BLUNT

88b

89

13.1.71.

Annexe to Summary of Berthold LUBETKIN

89a

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Previous vol. closed at 86a,  
dated 6.5.70.

Reference PF 604,861

87

K3/H.W.A. <sup>7/2</sup> 7/5/6

Thank you. We have nothing  
to add to your summary to  
87 assessment of PLAINFARL  
F2/URG/ABW.  
23/6/70.

F.2/URG

You may like to see 86a another "Ring of Five" summary/  
assessment. Any comments would be welcome.

H.W. Arnold

K.3

H. W. Arnold

21 May, 1970.

7.10.70

Extract from T/C on BLUNT

88b

89

13.1.71.

Annexe to Summary of Berthold LUBETKIN

89a

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3.2.71 Extract from F2/URG interview report with HENDERSON 90a

28.4.71 Copy of PHIDIAS from PLAYFAIR to BLUNT 91a

13.1.72. Ext. from F.2/URG report of interview with [redacted] 92a.

16.3.72 Copies of passport papers ~~93a~~  
*Incorrectly filed. now in envelope on left-hand side of file.*

28.4.72 Ext. from Interview Report on LLEWELYN-DAVIES 93b

28.4.72 Ext from Int, Report 93c

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ACT 1958** *September 2022*

94

22.5.72  
8.6.72

Ext from Int. Report  
Int. letter from PLAYFAIR to BLUNT

94z  
94a

95

19.9.72

Extract from Int. Report

95b

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Extract from ~~NOVEXXXX~~/Interview Report

Extract for File No. PF 604861 Name PLAYFAIR  
 Original in File No. PF 604604 Serial 204a Dated 19 September 1972  
 Date and Place of \*Interview/Meeting ~~XXXXX~~ 26 June 1972: 23 St James's Place, London.  
 with (also give security context of person being interviewed) Lady LLEWELYN DAVIES  
Student at Cambridge mid 1930s: Member CP: Associate of Guy BURGESS  
 Subject Association with BURGESS and others  
 Officer E W Pratt using (# of - Section K3  
 Extracted by [redacted] Section K3 Date 15 August 1973

.....  
 30. Did she know Eddie PLAYFAIR (PF 604,861)? She did but did not think she had met him until he had become a P.U.S.  
 .....

.....  
 32. She added that although she had not visited Highpoint during the time Richard had shared a penthouse with Eddie PLAYFAIR and Francis COOKE she had met LUBETKIN. She could say little about the circumstances of meeting him and emphasised that although she had heard quite a lot about them she had not met either Francis or Mary COOKE. I asked if she had ever heard anything to link Guy BURGESS with Highpoint. She was quite positive on this point: "No definitely not". She had known Guy quite well at this time through her friendship with Anthony BLUNT but apart from going in his company to the Gargoyle Club, or out to a restaurant for a meal, she had only known him in the context of Chester Square. There was absolutely nothing in her memory to associate BURGESS with Highpoint.

(Comment: Her mention of LUBETKIN and the COOKES in the context of Highpoint suggests that LLEWELYN DAVIES had discussed this aspect of our interviews with him with his wife; possibly our evident interest in any visit BURGESS might have made to Highpoint or any contact he might have had with occupants of the flats there led to this positive denial. One wonders why.

PLAYFAIR told us he took BURGESS to gatherings at Highpoint.)

THIS IS A COPY  
 ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
 IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
 3(4) \*Strike out inapplicable  
 ACT 1958 September 2022



95a.

THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT  
RETAINED IN DEPARTMENT  
UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF  
THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958.

6 JUNE 1972

W.D.O. SECRET

DTM

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pa PF604582

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JUN 1972

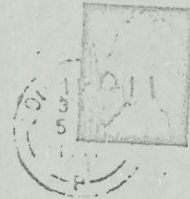
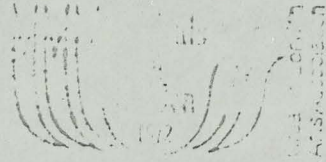
PA. Pf. 604,861

Orig - Pf. 604582

Rec'd. 8.6.72.

PF604604

PF604861



(cf \$30 at 943 -  
LL-D may have been  
in touch with EP?)

Sir Anthony Bland KEVO FBA  
Courtauld Institute of Art  
20 Portman Square  
W1

BROOKS'S,

ST. JAMES'S STREET, S.W. 1.

TEL 01-499 0072

My dear Anthony

DDG Wat. Trust.

A second thought in case  
Robin Fadden doesn't solve  
your problem. The right  
expert advice to go for is  
a good architect with urban,  
& negotiating, experience.

One such is Richard Davies,  
who of course is senior  
partner of a large practice  
as well as professor, &  
who has a reputation of

are we sure this  
is LL-Dames?

K3/ke  
20.6.72

6 JUNE 1972

W.D.O. SECRET

91111

knowing the ropes very well.

He is a member of the  
Managing Committee, isn't

he? He never comes -

all the more reason for  
him to help you behind  
the scenes

Yours

Eddie

TOP SECRET

942 PR

Extract from Note for File/Interview Report

Extract for File No. PF.604.861 Name PLAYFAIR  
 Original in File No. PF.604,604 Serial 186a Dated 22.5.72.  
 Date and Place of \*Interview/Meeting 23.3.72. at Hyde Park Hotel  
 with (also give security context of person being interviewed) Lord LLEWELYN-DAVIES (1931-34, student at Trinity College, Cambridge, Apostle, member of C.P., close associate of BURGESS and others).  
 Subject Association with BURGESS and others.  
 Officer K3/PS and E.W.P. using (w) of Section K.3.  
 Extracted by K3/6 Section K.3. Date 9.1.73.

Lord LLEWELYN-DAVIES was, in the main, co-operative, but is believed to have held back where his own involvement was concerned.

...../

14. We then turned to any continuing post-Cambridge association he might have had with BURGESS before the Bentinck Street days. He had met BURGESS at the Society's dinners but had no specific memory of meeting him in other circumstances. At that time his social life had revolved round Bloomsbury, particularly round the BELLS and the STEPHENS. BURGESS had never really been part of that circle but may have been on the fringe. LLEWELYN DAVIES's own friends had largely been of an older generation and he agreed that his friendships with PROCTOR (King's 1924-27; PF 604,597), LINTOTT (King's 1927-30; PF 607,236), PLAYFAIR (King's 1927-30; PF 604,861), themselves all part of the Bloomsbury circle in which he moved, were examples of this.

\*Strike out inapplicable.

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2

Extract from Note for File/Interview Report

Extract for File No. PF.604, 861 Name PLAYFAIR  
Original in File No. PF.604, 604 Serial 186a Dated 22.5.72.  
Date and Place of \*Interview/Meeting 23.3.72. at Hyde Park Hotel  
with (also give security context of person being interviewed) Lord LLEWELYN-DAVIES (1931-34, student at Trinity College, Cambridge, Apostle, member of C.P., close associate of BURGESS and others).  
Subject Association with BURGESS and others  
Officer K3/PS and E.W.P. using (# of Section K.3.  
Extracted by K3/6 Section K.3. Date 9.1.73.

Lord LLEWELYN-DAVIES was, in the main, co-operative, but is believed to have held back where his own involvement was concerned.

...../

19. We then tried to identify the focal points of his social life at that time. He thought they could be listed as:

Gordon Square where the STEPHENS' lived;  
(when we suggested the HENDERSONS in this context he dismissed them by saying they were spongers who were camping out in Gordon Square)

James STRACHEY;

Julian BELL and his mother Vanessa who had a studio in Fitzroy Square;

Eddie PLAYFAIR's flat in Highpoint;

the LINTOTT's house in Chelsea.

\*Strike out inapplicable.

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3

Extract from Note for File/Interview Report

Extract for File No. PF. 604, 861 Name PLAYFAIR  
 Original in File No. PF. 604, 604 Serial 186a Dated 22.5.72.  
 Date and Place of \*Interview/Meeting 23.3.72. at Hyde Park Hotel  
 with (also give security context of person being interviewed) Lord LLEWELYN-DAVIES (1931-34, student at Trinity College, Cambridge, Apostle, member of C.P., close associate of BURGESS and others).  
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 Extracted by K3/6 Section K.3. Date 9.1.73.

Lord LLEWELYN-DAVIES was, in the main, co-operative, but is believed to have held back where his own involvement was concerned.

...../

Highpoint

21. Still with BURGESS in mind we moved on to the question of political activities in the flats at Highpoint during the time when LLEWELYN DAVIES shared a flat with Eddie PLAYFAIR and Francis COOKE (PF 642,774) in 1935/36. He said he had had no further memories about any such activity in the Highpoint complex. He went on to raise Tollik LUBETKIN's name and asked whether he had lived there; we said we thought he had.

\*Strike out inapplicable.

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4

Extract from Note for File/Interview Report

Extract for File No. PF 604, 861 Name PLAYFAIR  
 Original in File No. PF. 604, 604 Serial 186a Dated 22.5.72.  
 Date and Place of \*Interview/Meeting 23.3.72. at Hyde Park Hotel.  
 with (also give security context of person being interviewed) Lord LLEWELYN-DAVIES (1931-34. student at Trinity College, Cambridge, Apostle, member of C.P., close associate of BURGESS and others).  
 Subject Association with BURGESS and others  
 Officer K.3/P.S. and E.W.P. using (a of K.3/6 Section K.3.  
 Extracted by K.3/6 Section K.3. Date 9.1.73.

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...../

24. We established that PLAYFAIR had moved out of Highpoint by the time LLEWELYN DAVIES and his wife had moved in; PLAYFAIR had gone to live in St. James'. We then said we were surprised

to learn that in 1938 LLEWELYN DAVIES and his wife had moved into No.10; we thought they had returned to No.21. As he shook his head, we explained we thought this because many years after she had re-married Ann had applied for a visa for the U.S.A. and in completing the portion of the form relating to addresses she listed under 1938: 21 Highpoint.

(Comment: This visa application was made in 1963.)

LLEWELYN DAVIES's reaction was to say: "How very odd; I simply cannot imagine why she should have said that". He went on to say that when he was living in No.21 in 1935-36, he was having a love affair with Ann and she sometimes had spent the night there, but she had not resided there. He agreed with a laugh that insofar as the record of her 1938 address was concerned she must have been guilty of a Freudian slip.

24 to 27

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Extract from Note for File/Interview Report

5

Extract for File No. PF 604861 Name PLAYFAIR  
 Original in File No. PF.604,604 Serial 186a Dated 22.5.72.  
 Date and Place of \*Interview/Meeting 23.3.72. at Hyde Park Hotel.  
 with (also give security context of person being interviewed) Lord LLEWELYN-DAVIES (1931-34, student at Trinity College, Cambridge, Apostle, member of C.P., close associate of BURGESS and others).  
 Subject Association with BURGESS and others  
 Officer K.3/P.S. and E.W.P. using (# of ..... Section K.3.  
K.3/6  
 Extracted by ..... Section K.3. Date 9.1.73.

Lord LLEWELYN-DAVIES was, in the main, co-operative, but is believed to have held back where his own involvement was concerned.

...../

25. We told him that having discovered Ann had quoted 21 Highpoint as her 1938 address, and knowing PLAYFAIR had by then left there, we had concluded that he and Ann had moved in with Francis COOKE (PF 642,774) and Tina ARNHEIM (L 255-14). We now realised this was not the case.

26. He asked "Was COOKE mixed up in this? Or perhaps I shouldn't ask. I should be very surprised if he was as I never regarded him as anything but a square." We told him that we did not know; we had not got to the bottom of the strange relationship COOKE had had with Tina ARNHEIM and we were hoping - thinking that he had shared a flat on this second occasion - he might have been able to throw some light on this. LLEWELYN DAVIES said he really had not known COOKE very well; he had only got to know him because PLAYFAIR had asked him to share the flat. He had no recollection of seeing COOKE when he and Ann had lived in No. 10 and did not think he had ever met Tina. Here again as happened so often in the course of both interviews he qualified what seemed to be a definite statement by saying he thought after reflection it was possible he might have played squash with COOKE occasionally during 1938/39; he could not be sure.

\*Strike out inapplicable.



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## Extract from Note for File/Interview Report

6

Extract for File No. PF604861 Name PLAYFAIR  
 Original in File No. PF.604,604 Serial 186a Dated 22.5.72.  
 Date and Place of \*Interview/Meeting 23.3.72. at Hyde Park Hotel.  
 with (also give security context of person being interviewed) Lord LLEWELYN-DAVIES (1931-34, student at Trinity College, Cambridge, Apostle, member of C.P., close associate of BURGESS and others).  
 Subject Association with BURGESS and others  
 Officer K.3/P.S. and E.W.P. using (no of ..... Section K.3.  
 Extracted by K.3/6 Section K.3. Date 9.1.73.

Lord LLEWELYN-DAVIES was, in the main, co-operative, but is believed to have held back where his own involvement was concerned.

...../

27. We took him back to the question of gatherings which had taken place at Highpoint. He countered by asking whether we were saying that these had been organised by LUBETKIN. We thought although they had probably not been organised by LUBETKIN it had been said that he had been a sort of father figure. LLEWELYN DAVIES thought about this for a moment and then said that Mary COOKE might have been the link in all this. By the time he had moved into Highpoint with PLAYFAIR and COOKE, Mary had left her husband but quite often visited the flat to see PLAYFAIR with whom she continued to maintain a friendship. Mary COOKE was working in LUBETKIN's office in TECTON and was then living with Francis SKINNER, another TECTON partner whom LLEWELYN DAVIES knew to be a Communist. He said that Mary COOKE was also a Communist.

(Comment: Notes on the background of TECTON, Francis COOKE, Tina and Hans ARNHEIM, Tollik LUBETKIN, Mary COOKE and Francis SKINNER are included in the report on the first interview with LLEWELYN DAVIES.)

\*Strike out inapplicable.

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Extract from Note for File/Interview Report

7

Extract for File No. PF. 604, 861 Name PLAYFAIR  
 Original in File No. PF. 604, 604 Serial 186a Dated 22.5.72.  
 Date and Place of \*Interview/Meeting 23.3.72. at Hyde Park Hotel.  
 with (also give security context of person being interviewed) Lord LLEWELYN-DAVIES (1931-34, student at Trinity College, Cambridge, Apostle, member of C.P., close associate of BURGESS and others).  
 Subject Association with BURGESS and others  
 Officer K.3/P.S. and E.W.P. using (a) of Section K.3.  
 K.3/6  
 Extracted by Section K.3. Date 9.1.73.

Lord LLEWELYN-DAVIES was, in the main, co-operative, but is believed to have held back where his own involvement was concerned.

...../

30. We asked if Eddie PLAYFAIR had kept up an association with BURGESS and if he recalled meeting BURGESS in PLAYFAIR's company. He did not know whether or not PLAYFAIR had seen much of BURGESS. He himself had no memory of meeting BURGESS in PLAYFAIR's company. He added that he had no doubt PLAYFAIR would tell us if we asked him. Then: "Would you have any objection to my talking to Eddie about this?" We warned him he would have to be discreet but if talking to PLAYFAIR would help him remember things about Highpoint it could be useful. We were particularly interested in memories of gatherings there which might have included BURGESS and any foreigners.

(Comment: There are grounds for thinking that LLEWELYN DAVIES could well be holding back in his account of his memories of political activities in Highpoint; for example, it is difficult to believe he did not know LUBETKIN better than he has admitted either in this or in the previous interview.

PLAYFAIR has told us that during the time he was sharing it with COOKE and LLEWELYN DAVIES, their penthouse flat in Highpoint was a centre of left wing, mostly Cambridge, friends. In this context he made two additional points: first, BURGESS had often been there; secondly, at these gatherings LUBETKIN had not only been present but was regarded as an elder statesman.

That there was a close and continuing relationship between COOKE, PLAYFAIR and LUBETKIN is supported by the fact that COOKE and PLAYFAIR

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\*Strike out inapplicable.

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were two of the four referees in LUBETKIN's naturalisation application (the other two were Sigmund GESTETNER and Julian HUXLEY). The police report on this (dated July, 1938) records that both COOKE and PLAYFAIR had known LUBETKIN since 1933; both had seen him frequently socially from then on; both were near neighbours. It seems likely, therefore, that LLEWELYN DAVIES would have seen LUBETKIN at the Highpoint pent-house not merely while he was living there but later; PLAYFAIR continued to live there until 1938 and LLEWELYN DAVIES has said (vide para.19 above) that PLAYFAIR's flat in Highpoint remained, after he (LLEWELYN DAVIES) had left it, a focal point of his social life in pre-war London.

Moreover, he has told us that his first job - the design of a house near Portsmouth - was for TECTON. He came to know the firm through COOKE's estranged wife (and PLAYFAIR's friend) Mary nee COSS, who worked for TECTON. He got to know her during his time at Highpoint (1935/36) but did not get the offer of the job until 1938. There must have been a good many architectural students about and because TECTON picked on him I suggest it must be assumed that he remained in touch not only with Mary but also with her principals, LUBETKIN - and perhaps SKINNER - throughout that time.

Then there is the question of MARR VEVERS. There are many indications that regular Sunday soirees took place in his flat in Highpoint; we now know there were certain elements common to the circle which gathered in the COOKE/PLAYFAIR/LLEWELYN DAVIES flat and that which gathered chez MARR VEVERS; LUBETKIN, Mary COOKE, and PLAYFAIR are examples and it is by no means unreasonable to suppose that PLAYFAIR might have taken LLEWELYN DAVIES along - and indeed perhaps BURGESS too.

We have not yet got to the bottom of what went on at Highpoint. We know MARR VEVERS from the mid 1930s onwards was in close touch with the Russian Embassy (he was described as "persona grata" there) and that he was in touch with a number of people of interest to us. What makes all this important is that the mid to late 1930s are a shadowy period in our knowledge of the activities of BURGESS and those with whom he was then in contact.)

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9

Extract from Note for File/Interview Report

Extract for File No. PF.604,861 Name PLAYFAIR  
 Original in File No. PF.604,604 Serial 186a Dated 22.5.72.  
 Date and Place of \*Interview/Meeting 23.3.72. at Hyde Park Hotel.  
 with (also give security context of person being interviewed) Lord LLEWELYN-DAVIES (1931-34, student at Trinity College, Cambridge, Apostle, member of C.P., close associate of BURGESS and others).  
 Subject Association with BURGESS and others  
 Officer K.3/P.S. and E.W.P. using @ of Section K.3.  
 Extracted by K.3/6 Section K.3. Date 9.1.73.

Lord LLEWELYN-DAVIES was, in the main, co-operative, but is believed to have held back where his own involvement was concerned.

...../

47. Did he remember the Cranium Club? He did; he had been a member. Others he recalled as members were:

Adrian BELL "My father-in-law"

(Comment: This must have been a slip of the tongue; Ann's father was Adrian STEPHEN; it was he who was likely to have been a member of the Cranium Club. We have no knowledge of an "Adrian" in the BELL family.)

*full name of Vanessa Bell*

Denis PROCTOR

Henry LINTOTT

Eddie PLAYFAIR

Alister WATSON

Roger QUIRK (King's 1928-31; PF 605,670)  
 - who had been President.

This Club had dined he thought, monthly; we suggested it had done so at the Reform but his recollection was that it had met to dine at L'Etoile in Charlotte Street.

(Comment: WATSON said that the Cranium Club met first at restaurants in Charlotte Street and later on at the Reform Club.)

Continued/---

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Paragraph 48 | - - - -

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48. We asked whether he recalled a house party in a cottage in Berkshire probably in the summer of 1936. The cottage we thought belonged to the LINTOTTS and in addition to the LINTOTTS and himself, we believed his sister, Sean, Alister WATSON and Eddie PLAYFAIR had been there. He gave this thought and said that while he could not recall any such specific occasion this sort of thing had happened - a house party of the people we had named would have been perfectly possible.

(Comment: The story of this house party comes from WATSON.)

As we continued to demolish his line that he had seen very little of WATSON in his post-Cambridge years, a noticeable sharpness came into his voice.)

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93c

Extract from Note for File/Interview Report

Extract for File No. PF 604831 Name PLAYFAIR  
 Original in File No. PF 604604 Serial 182 Dated 28.4.72  
 Date and Place of \*Interview/Meeting 10.3.72 at Brown's Hotel  
 with (also give security context of person being interviewed) Lord LLEWELYN DAVIES (1931-34, student at Trinity College, Cambridge, Apostle, member of C.P., close associate of BURGESS and others)  
 Subject Association with BURGESS and others  
 Officer K3/P.S. and E.W.P. using (# of ..... Section K.3  
 Extracted by K3/6 Sec. Section K.3 Date 8.1.73

Lord LLEWELYN DAVIES was, in the main, co-operative, but is believed to have held back where his own involvement was concerned.

.....

82. In the case of BURGESS we were left with a number of unresolved (and possibly important) points relating to what went on at Highpoint. We need to know a lot more about the activities of the occupants of and visitors to that block of flats. It is possible to read some significance into the fact that having denied knowledge (or indeed likelihood) of BURGESS's presence in Highpoint and knowledge of left wing activities there (although some of these, including visits by BURGESS, according to PLAYFAIR took place in the flat LLEWELYN DAVIES shared with him) he asked to be permitted to talk to PLAYFAIR. Having taken the line that he knew of no political activities in Highpoint he could be anxious to know just what PLAYFAIR has told us - particularly in so far as BURGESS, MARR VEVERS and COOKE are concerned. It will be interesting to see what, if any, changes in his account of Highpoint LLEWELYN DAVIES may make when we next see him. In this connection there seem to be cogent reasons for reverting to PLAYFAIR ourselves and for talking to COOKE.

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\*Strike out inapplicable.

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93b

Extract from Note for File/Interview Report

Extract for File No. PF 604881 Name PLAY FAIR

Original in File No. PF 604604 Serial 182a Dated 28.4.72

Date and Place of \*Interview/Meeting 10.3.72 at Brown's Hotel

with (also give security context of person being interviewed) Lord LLEWELYN DAVIES (1931-34, student at Trinity College, Cambridge, Apostle, member of C.P., close associate of BURGESS and others)

Subject Association with BURGESS and others

Officer K3/P.S. and E.W.P. using (a) of Section K.3

Extracted by K3/6 Sec. Section K.3 Date 8.1.73

Lord LLEWELYN DAVIES was, in the main, co-operative, but is believed to have held back where his own involvement was concerned.

. . . . .

TECTON and Highpoint

29. We asked if he was simply a student during his four years at the A.A. or whether, at the same time, he had been attached to a firm. He confirmed he had just been a student. We said we asked this because we thought he might have worked for a firm of architects known as TECTON during that time. Having first said "No", after a pause he qualified this by explaining that he had been lucky enough to be asked by TECTON

to do a holiday job for them. He had come to know about the firm through living with PLAYFAIR and COOKE. COOKE's first wife was an architect who worked for TECTON. Through these contacts towards the end of his time as a student, he had been asked by TECTON to design a house and this he had done, working in conjunction with a German, Peter MORO (ph.), who was also a TECTON employee. LLEWELYN DAVIES had not worked for TECTON subsequently.

(Comment: There is a Peter MORO who owns PF 137,815. He is about the right age (born 1911), an Austrian who became naturalised, and an architect. There are vague indications that in 1950 he might have been a Communist. He may well be identical with the person referred to by LLEWELYN DAVIES.)

\*Strike out inapplicable.

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35. We asked if he had seen anything of BURGESS or PHILBY at that time. He said he had not. We said that either or both might have visited Highpoint; we had reason to think BURGESS did and geographically PHILBY, until he went to Spain in 1937, was a fairly close neighbour living as he did in Acol Road. However, LLEWELYN DAVIES said he did not connect BURGESS with anyone in Highpoint and, as regards PHILBY, he thought that he had only seen him once after Cambridge. He had seen him in a bar in Amman not long before he defected to Russia. He only just recognised him and did not speak. In response to a question, he agreed he must have met him once or twice during his time in Bentinck Street but he had no clear memory of having done so. Had he met PHILBY's first wife Lizzy? He had a feeling he had met her in Bentinck Street. We showed him photographs of her which after consideration he said he was quite sure he had never met the person in the photographs. We agreed that the person he remembered must have been Aileen FURSE, the woman with whom PHILBY lived from 1940 to 1946 when he married her, having divorced Lizzy.

56. This reconsideration of WATSON's character and his relationship with him gave us the opportunity to re-introduce BURGESS's name in a context which linked it with that of WATSON. We told him "Guy worshipped Alister and thought him some sort of god".

(Comment: This has its origins in a remark made by Isaiah BERLIN when he was interviewed.)

/in LLEWELYN DAVIES reacted sharply. "Really? I am greatly surprised. Alister was really a miserable little man; a weak and/effective personality. How very strange that Guy should have regarded him so." He went on to stress yet again how much, even at Cambridge, he had disliked Guy but at the same time had liked Anthony BLUNT. Reflectively, he said he supposed he had tended to associate with older people. He gave his friendship with Eddie PLAYFAIR as an example. Digressing, he said he thought PLAYFAIR was devoted to him because not having become an Apostle himself - and this was something which rankled with him - he had been delighted when LLEWELYN DAVIES had once cut an Apostle dinner to dine with him. We asked why he thought PLAYFAIR had not become an Apostle - had someone blackballed him? He said he did not know; all that must have happened before his time.

(Comment: Denis PROCTOR has said that it was he who blackballed PLAYFAIR from the Apostles.)

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The whole of the Declaration and Marginal Particulars should be in the Applicant's own handwriting.

This space is reserved for official use.

**\* Surname in Block Capitals.**

**Declaration to be made by Applicant for Passport.†**

(In the case of children under the age of 16 years requiring a separate Passport, the Declaration must be made by the child's parent or guardian in a form (B) to be obtained upon application to the Passport Office.)

- (a) Insert Date and Town where staying when filling in the form.
- (b) Christian Names and Surname of the applicant in full. (Surname in BLOCK CAPITALS.)
- (c) In the case of a MARRIED WOMAN or WIDOW, the particulars of birth required are those of her HUSBAND or LATE HUSBAND—not of the applicant herself.
- (d) State exact national status, e.g., a British Subject by Birth or a British Subject by naturalisation, British-protected Person, &c. IN THE CASE OF A BRITISH SUBJECT BY NATURALISATION SEE RULE 5 AT BACK.
- (e) Wife and children should only be included if they do not possess separate passports. Strike out the words in brackets in other cases.
- (f) [Strike out and initial which-ever is not applicable.]
- (g) NOTE.—All previous passports must be accounted for.

(h) Signature of applicant.  
The applicant must also write a specimen of his signature on the pink slip attached below marked\*\*.

(i) Name and Qualification of person verifying the Declaration (see Rule 4 at back), viz. :-  
Mayor, Magistrate, Provost, Justice of the Peace, Minister of Religion, Barrister-at-Law, Physician, Surgeon, Solicitor, Notary Public, &c., giving professional or business address.  
Recommendations from members or officials of Banking Firms should bear the printed stamp of the Bank here below.

**CAUTION.**

† The attention of persons who are asked to sign this declaration is specially called to the fact that it can only be signed from personal knowledge of the applicant and not from information obtained from other persons.

(A.)

(a) London, 27<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> May 1932.

\*I, the Undersigned, (b) Edward Wilder PLAYFAIR

at present residing at 57 Gloucester Terrace, London, W.2 hereby declare that I am

(c) ~~FOR A MARRIED WOMAN OR WIDOW (to be struck out in other cases). Particulars of HUSBAND'S birth to follow.~~  
the ~~wife~~ widow of \_\_\_\_\_ and that my ~~husband~~ late husband was

a (d) British Subject by Birth having been born at London on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of May 1909

~~FOR PERSONS BORN ABROAD, who derive British nationality from a father or paternal grandfather born within His Majesty's Dominions. (To be struck out in other cases.)~~

my (his) ~~father~~ paternal grandfather having been born within His Majesty's Dominions at \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_

and not having lost the status of British Subject thus acquired, I hereby apply for a Passport for travelling to the British Empire, all countries in Europe, USSR, Turkey, Tangier, Morocco & Egypt

for the purpose of pleasure  
(e) [accompanied by my wife (and children under the age of 16), as indicated in the margin, who do not possess separate Passports].

(f) I declare that I have not previously been granted any Passport whatever, and that I have made no other application for a Passport. E.W.P.

(g) I declare that all previous Passports granted to me have been surrendered for cancellation to a British Passport or Consular Officer, other than Passport No. 236976, which is now attached for cancellation, and that I have made no other application for a Passport since the attached Passport was issued to me.

(h) Signed E.W. Playfair  
† AND I, the Undersigned, (i) Ernest Playfair (Physician)  
of 57 Gloucester Terrace W.2 hereby declare that to the best of my

personal knowledge and belief the above-made Declaration and Description of the said Mr. Edward Wilder Playfair is true, and that I can from my personal knowledge of him vouch for him as a fit and proper person to receive a British Passport. I have known the applicant for 25 years.

Signed Ernest Playfair M.B. M.R.C.P.  
PHOTOGRAPHS. Two small unmounted duplicate photographs of the applicant (and wife if to be included) must be sent, one of which should be certified and signed on the back by the guarantor, as follows: "I certify that this photograph is a true likeness of \_\_\_\_\_"

**IMPORTANT.**

† Applicants, and persons recommending them, are warned that should any of the statements contained in their respective declarations prove to be untrue, the consequences to them may be serious.

Description of Applicant.

25298

Age ~~27~~ 23  
 Profession Civil Servant  
 Whether married or single Single  
 Domicile or ordinary place of residence London  
 Place of birth London  
 Date of birth 17<sup>th</sup> May 1909  
 Height 5 feet 9 inches.  
 Colour of Eyes Brown  
 Colour of Hair Dark Brown  
 Visible distinguishing marks or peculiarities None  
 Maiden name of widow or married woman (in Block Capitals)

**CHANGE OF NAME.**

If name has been changed by Deed Poll or otherwise the original name must be stated here  
 If there has been no change of name the word "None" must be written here None  
 Signature of applicant. E.W. Playfair

**Description of wife of Applicant, if to be included on the Passport.**

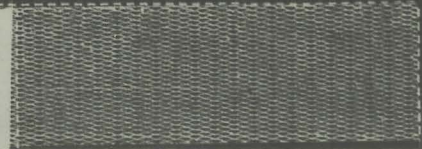
Name in full  
 Age  
 Profession  
 Place of birth  
 Date of birth  
 Height feet inches.  
 Colour of Eyes  
 Colour of Hair  
 Visible distinguishing marks or peculiarities  
 Maiden name (in Block Capitals)  
 Signature of wife of applicant.

Children under the age of 16 if to be included on this Passport. CHRISTIAN NAMES. SURNAME. DATE OF BIRTH. SEX



ISSUE  
 1983  
 BRITISH EMPIRE EUROPE ETC.  
 Morocco  
 Egypt  
 27.5.

Frank }  
 Frank }  
 Frank }





PF 604, 861

Edward PLAYFAIR.

KV2/4672

Received by hand 16.3.72.

139110

93a

Please write your name here

INITIALS	SURNAME
E. W.	PLAYFAIR

## UNITED KINGDOM PASSPORT APPLICATION

### Form "A"

This form is for use if you are 16 years of age or over and wish to apply for a ten-year United Kingdom passport (fee £2). For a person under the age of 16 Form "B" should be used.

For a British Visitor's Passport fee (7s. 6d.) valid for one year and for short holiday visits to certain countries only, application should be made on a Form "V.P." obtainable from your nearest Employment Exchange.

#### IMPORTANT

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION AT LEAST THREE WEEKS BEFORE YOU NEED YOUR PASSPORT

With this form you will find a separate leaflet headed NOTES FOR GUIDANCE. Please read each of the notes carefully before you complete the correspondingly numbered section of the form.

SPACE BELOW IS FOR PASSPORT OFFICE USE ONLY

Previous passport held—No.

F. O. L. 0162765/60 cr R

#### NEXT ACTION

NEXT ACTION	
Issue	

#### DOCUMENTS TO BE RETURNED

DOCUMENTS TO BE RETURNED	
Prev. PP 1	

19/10  
22/3/72

11 | PAR  
Country  
Purpose  
IMPC  
12 | PAR  
F  
No.  
Bearer's  
Circum  
Place at  
If loss  
I certifi  
above  
return  
Office  
Sig  
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ISSU  
(Statu

1 | PARTICULARS OF APPLICANT (see Note 1)

Surname (state Mr., Mrs., Miss or title) PLAYFAIR  
(SIR EDWARD)  
Christian or other names in full EDWARD WILDER  
Maiden surname -  
Place and country of birth LONDON, ENGLAND  
Date of birth 17 MAY 1909 Age last birthday 60  
State whether single, married, widowed or divorced MARRIED  
Present address 12 THE VALE  
S.W.3  
Town LONDON County -  
Telephone No. 352 4671  
Has your name been changed otherwise than by marriage or adoption? (Yes or No) NO  
If so, state your previous name -

PERSONAL DESCRIPTION

Occupation COMPANY DIRECTOR  
Residence (country) ENGLAND  
Height 5 ft. 9 ins.  
Colour of eyes BROWN  
Colour of hair BROWN  
Visible peculiarities LEFT LITTLE FINGER AMPUTATED

2 | PARTICULARS OF WIFE IF YOU ARE APPLYING FOR A FAMILY PASSPORT (see Note 2)

~~Surname  
Christian or other names in full  
Maiden surname  
Place and country of birth  
Date of birth  
Place and country of marriage  
Date of marriage~~

PERSONAL DESCRIPTION

~~Occupation  
Residence (country)  
Height ft. ins.  
Colour of eyes  
Colour of hair  
Visible peculiarities~~

3 | PARTICULARS OF CHILDREN UNDER 16 TO BE INCLUDED IN PASSPORT (see Note 3)

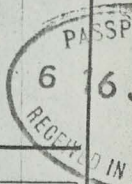
Christian or other names in full	Surname	Place and country of birth	Date of birth	Relationship to applicant
<del> </del>				

4 | PARTICULARS OF NATURALISATION OR REGISTRATION (see Note 4)

	Applicant	Wife	Children
Number of document	<del> </del>	<del> </del>	<del> </del>
Place of issue	<del> </del>	<del> </del>	<del> </del>
Date of issue	<del> </del>	<del> </del>	<del> </del>

5 | APPLICANT BORN OUTSIDE THE UNITED KINGDOM (see Note 5)

(A) Full names of applicant's father   
His place and country of birth  His date of birth   
If applicant's father a British subject or citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies by naturalisation or registration  
No. of his document  Place of issue  Date of issue   
(B) Full names of applicant's mother   
Her place and country of birth  Her date of birth   
(C) If applicant born in a foreign country and the birth was registered at a British Consulate  
Name of British Consulate  Date of registration



139110

6 MARRIED, WIDOWED OR DIVORCED WOMAN APPLYING FOR A SEPARATE PASSPORT (see Note 6)

(A) Place and country of marriage..... Date of marriage.....  
 Surname and full Christian or other names of husband (or late or former husband).....  
 His place and country of birth..... His date of birth.....  
 His nationality.....  
 Date of divorce (if applicable)..... Date of husband's death (if applicable).....  
 State whether married more than once.....

(B) (i) If husband born outside the United Kingdom  
 Full names of husband's father.....  
 His place and country of birth..... His date of birth.....

(ii) If husband is a British subject or citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies by naturalisation or registration  
 No. of Document..... Place of issue..... Date of issue.....

(iii) If husband's father is a British subject or citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies by naturalisation or registration  
 No. of his document..... Place of issue..... Date of issue.....

FOR OFFICIAL USE

Documents produced to be noted here

Applicant's birth certificate

Wife's/Husband's birth certificate

Child's (or children's) birth certificate(s)

Marriage certificate

Other documents

Pre PPT

7 DECLARATION OF APPLICANT (see Note 7)

I, the undersigned, hereby apply for the issue of a passport. I declare that the information given in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, that I have not lost the status of British subject (or British protected person), and I have not renounced citizenship of the United Kingdom and Colonies. I further declare

~~A that I have not previously held or applied for a passport of any description,~~ 60  
 B that all previous passports of any kind granted to me have been surrendered, other than passport, British Visitor's Passport or travel document No. 62765 which is now attached, and that I have made no other application for a passport since the attached passport, British Visitor's Passport or travel document was issued to me.

Cross out wording "A" or wording "B" whichever does not apply

Signature of applicant E. W. Playfair Date 15 January 1970

8 DECLARATION OF WIFE (FAMILY PASSPORT ONLY) (see Note 8)

I declare that the information given in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, that I have not lost the status of British subject (or British protected person) and I have not renounced citizenship of the United Kingdom and Colonies. I further declare

A that I have not previously held or applied for a passport of any description,  
 B that all previous passports of any kind granted to me have been surrendered, other than passport, British Visitor's Passport or travel document No. .... which is now attached, and that I have made no other application for a passport since the attached passport, British Visitor's Passport or travel document was issued to me.

Cross out wording "A" or wording "B" whichever does not apply

Signature of applicant's wife..... Date.....

9 SIGNATURE OF PARENT (see Note 9)

Full names.....  
 Address.....  
 Relationship to child..... Telephone No.....  
 Signature of parent..... Date.....

IMPORTANT. Persons who sign or countersign applications are warned that the making of an untrue statement for the purpose of procuring a passport is an offence under Section 36 of the Criminal Justice Act, 1925. The application should not be countersigned until the form has been completed, signed and dated by the applicant.

FOR OFFICIAL USE

10 COUNTERSIGNATURE (see Note 10)

I (name in block capitals) GNENDOLINE EMILY BERGE  
 certify that the applicant has been known personally to me for FIVE \*years, and that to the best of my knowledge and belief the facts stated on this form are correct. I am a British subject.

Signature G. E. Berge

Profession BANK OFFICER

Address 300 KINGS ROAD  
LONDON, S.W.3.

Date 15/1/70 Telephone No. 352 3135.

\* The number of years should be stated in the space provided above.

Office Stamp (for use by Police Officers, Bank Officials, etc.)



P.T.O. for sections 11, 12 and 13

**I PARTICULARS OF APPLICANT** (see Note 1)

**II PARTICULARS OF TRAVEL** (see Note 11)

Countries to be visited various  
Purpose of journey business and pleasure Date passport required 7 Feb 1970

**IMPORTANT**

Please make sure that you enclose—

- FEE
- PHOTOGRAPHS
- DOCUMENTS

(See NOTES FOR GUIDANCE)

**12 PARTICULARS OF PREVIOUS PASSPORT WHICH HAS BEEN LOST OR IS NOT AVAILABLE FOR PRESENT USE** (see Note 12)

No. \_\_\_\_\_ issued at \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_

Bearer's names at time of issue \_\_\_\_\_

Circumstances in which passport was lost or destroyed, or other reason for its non-availability \_\_\_\_\_

Place and date of loss \_\_\_\_\_

If loss was reported to the Police state where and when \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that the above particulars are correct and that I have made no other application for a passport since the above passport was issued to me. I undertake in the event of the passport coming again into my possession to return it immediately to the Passport Office, London, to a British Consulate, to a British High Commissioner's Office, or to a British passport issuing authority for cancellation.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**13 SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

SPACE BELOW IS FOR PASSPORT OFFICE USE ONLY

ISSUE (Status) BSUKC

H. Masking

19 JAN 1970

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£2. 6h  
2 PR  
PPT

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SECRET

92a

Extract from Note for File/Interview Report

Extract for File No. PF.604861 Name PLAYFAIR

Original in File No. PF.604604 Serial 153a Dated 13.1.72

Date and Place of \*Interview/Meeting 6.1.72 at 12 Innage Road, Birmingham 31

with (also give security context of person being interviewed) (UCL 1932-36) was a member of the Organising Committee of the UCL Communist Group. He is thought to be a useful source within the limits imposed by a patchy memory.

Subject

Officer using @ of Section F2/URG

Extracted by FH Section K3 Date 28.1.72

2. I reminded [redacted] that at our previous meeting he had mentioned attending meetings in LLEWELYN-DAVIES's flat, which he thought had been in John's Street, W.C.1. Was he sure that it had been in John's Street as it had been suggested that the flat had been in Brunswick Square? [redacted] replied that his memory was of a street rather than a square. I showed him the appropriate page of the London Geographia, which he studied with some care. He repeated that his memory was still of a street rather than a square and he thought the flat had been near the top of the house; not the top floor itself, but probably the third floor. He said that he thought that the house might have been No. 1 John Street.

3. I asked [redacted] if he could put a date to the meetings he had mentioned. He said that he thought that they had probably begun in the second half of 1935 before he had gone to Russia in 1936. He thought he now had three separate memories of LLEWELYN-DAVIES's flat. The first was of viewing the murals which he had originally mentioned; the second was of meetings, he thought of UCL people, which he did not associate with LLEWELYN-DAVIES, and third of meeting people in the flat at more informal or even social occasions, who were obviously of extreme leftwing or Marxist views and were friends of LLEWELYN-DAVIES. He thought the second group could well have been the UCL Org Comm.

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\*Strike out inapplicable.

SECRET

Handwritten initials



SECRET

Extract from Note for File/Interview Report

Extract for File No.....Name.....

Original in File No.....Serial.....Dated.....

Date and Place of \*Interview/Meeting.....

with (also give security context of person being interviewed).....

Subject.....

Officer.....using @ of.....Section.....

Extracted by.....Section.....Date.....

6. I then told [redacted] that I was going to show him a series of photographs and invited his comments as to whether or not he had met any of their owners either with LLEWELYN-DAVIES or at LLEWELYN-DAVIES's flat. He had some comment to make on all of them, except Henry LINTOTT and Ian and Susan HENDERSON, of whom there were no photographs. His comments were as follows:-

(b) Eddie PLAYFAIR

[redacted] said that he vaguely recognised the photograph, but he was not absolutely certain as the focus was not too good. I gave him the name, and he at once said that he remembered the man in the context of the flat. However his memory was of rather more hair and a rather rounder face.

8. I asked [redacted] to describe to me what he thought LLEWELYN-DAVIES's politics had been at this time. [redacted] said that he could not say whether or not LLEWELYN-DAVIES had held a party card, but looking back he thought of him either as a communist or so near the party as to make no difference. Probably the best way to describe him was to say that he had been a pretty voluble Marxist. Of the others he was fairly certain that PLAYFAIR had been a communist in his beliefs if not actually a party member. The rest he was not certain about, but his memory was

that discussions and conversations in LLEWELYN-DAVIES's flat had always had a distinct leftwing flavour, whoever had been there.

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27

1971

SECRET

W D O

Original in RF 604582  
copy in RF 604861

9/Jan

28 APR 1971

Sir Anthony Blunt  
Courtauld Institute  
Portico Square

12 The Vale  
London SW3  
BROOKS'S  
ST. JAMES'S STREET, S.W.1  
TEL 01-499 0072

22 April

Dear Gow

If you and Anthony can't solve the problem of aeternitas temporalis, how could we bankers? I would only suggest this, having thumbed through a few reference books.

The phrase is theologically incorrect, so much so that one would not expect it to come from any respectable author. ~~With~~ The theologically correct view is that eternity not an unending process or an infinite series of which time is a finite part; it is "a state of existence which is completely independent of temporal conditions". Cf. Boethius, De Cons. v. 6 "aeternitas est interminabilis vitae tota simul et perfecta possessio" - underlining mine.

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29/4/71

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APRIL  
1971

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W.D.O.

(1) (0)

8

"I saw eternity the other night" is orthodox; *aeternitas temporalis* is not.

Of course the author knew this: it was a paradox, and, I suspect, far more of a recognized paradox then than now. With a non-theological interpretation of "aeternitas" one can make sense of the phrase. With a theological interpretation it is a clear contradiction (see Late Latin Glossary - I've forgotten the author - that I looked at gave aeternus as the antonym of temporalis).

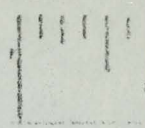
As the position was unorthodox, or recognisably so, and as eternity is one of the divine attributes, I doubt whether the phrase is likely to have been drawn from any published work, or is probably an invented phrase,

27

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1971

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W D O



BROOKS'S,  
ST. JAMES'S STREET, S.W. 1.

TEL. ~~01-499 0072~~  
01-499 0072

with any one of the possible meanings  
or implications. Here one is thrown  
back on the context. Unfortunately  
the Cambridge PO barbarously  
postmarks the text-side of postcards,  
and I can't read what is.

Anyway this is all conjecture:  
but I think it delimits probabilities.

One more for you, from  
Geoffrey Eley. What is the implication  
or origin of Housman's "twelve-winded  
sky"? Winds don't come duodecimally,  
zodiacs do. Something in Marinius?

I've just come back from  
your Academy, where Austin Robinson

27

APRIL

1971

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W D O

gave the first Keynes lecture - very good. I met met there a merchant banker (not my Westminster type) and put your phrase to him. He thought a bit & then said "What about Boethius?" I was able to prove him 180° wrong, but I think that is better than a random mistake.

Please don't bother to answer unless you can solve Geoffrey Elay's problem.

Yours ever

Eddie Playfair

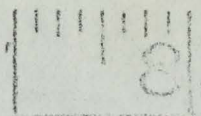
27

APRIL

1971

SECRET

W D O



E.P. having had a problem  
on me, I contacted Mike Davis  
and had his answer - when  
don't help me

A  
3.

Extract for File No.: PF 604,861

Name: ... Eddie PLAYFAIR

Original in File No.: PF 221,352

Vol 3... Serial 1384... Dated 3.2.1971

Extracted by: J.L. /F2/URG

Date 18.2.71

Subject: Kenneth Ian HENDERSON

University, College and dates: Christ's College, Cambridge 1934-37

Position in Student Movement or other significant involvement: HENDERSON was an underground member of the Communist Party at Cambridge, with the task of penetrating the Cambridge University branch of the League of Nations Union. As a result of his activities at Cambridge HENDERSON was selected to undertake a courier mission for the Comintern using the cover of the World Youth Congress.

Reliability: HENDERSON was co-operative and frank; the information he has given is regarded as reliable.

Date and Place of Interview: 3rd November 1970 at the Swan Hotel, Lavenham.

Interviewing Officer: F.2/U.R.G./E.W. Pratt @ (if used)

76. We recalled that he had told us that PLUMB had shown him a new way to climb into College (vide paragraph 42 of report dated 19th February 1970); could he tell us the circumstances and background against which this incident had taken place.

77. HENDERSON said it had happened following a party in London. In order to get to the party he had borrowed Michael STRAIGHT's car and had taken PLUMB with him. They had got back to Christ's at about 3 o'clock in the morning and it was then that PLUMB had shown him this particularly easy route to climb into College. He confirmed that this must have happened in 1936/37 which was the one year he himself had lived in.

78. We asked where the party had been and who had been at it. He was not sure but thought it might have been given by Henry LINTOTT (King's 1927-30; PF. 607,236) whom he described as having been a great friend of Alister WATSON (King's 1926-29/39; PF. 47,496) who had married HENDERSON's sister. He could not be quite sure who had been there but it was likely that in addition to LINTOTT and WATSON the party would have included:

- Eddie PLAYFAIR (King's 1927-30; PF. 604,861)
- Richard LLEWELLYN-DAVIES (Trinity 1931-35; PF. 604,604)
- Victor ROTHSCHILD (Trinity 1930-33/39; PF. 605,563)
- Anthony BLUNT (Trinity 1926-29/37; PF. 604,582)
- Guy BURGESS (Trinity 1930-33/35; PF. 604,529)

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Handwritten initials and date: 29/3/71

79. He explained that these had all been friends and had given parties fairly often. HENDERSON had known most of them through his life in Bloomsbury, but had become much closer to the circle once Alister WATSON had arrived on the scene in pursuit of his sister. It was also largely because of his sister that he had come into fairly close contact with Victor ROTHSCHILD; as she had been a close friend of ROTHSCHILD's first wife Barbara (nee HUTCHINSON).

80. We asked how well PLUMB had known the people he had named as having probably been at the party. HENDERSON said he had certainly known them all but none of them particularly well. He thought PLUMB had tended to be rather on the fringe of this group. We pointed out that there was a strong Apostolic element among those he had mentioned; this led us to wonder why, with his entrée into this circle of 'Angels' of significance, and with his undoubted intellectual standard, PLUMB had never become an Apostle. HENDERSON said that as he had told us before he knew very little about the Apostles and because of that was not clear why PLUMB, unlike the rest of the circle, had not been an Apostle.

COMMENT

HODGART has recently provided an explanation.

94. We asked if he had known Pat RAWDON SMITH (Girton 1934-?) PF: 604,604) who had become LLEWELLYN DAVIES' second wife. He had, but added that unlike Ann STEPHEN, who had been active, he did not think that Pat had been in the student branch, although she had had a number of friends who were. He had also known her then husband, Alex RAWDON SMITH (Peterhouse 1930-33/36; PF. 796,666). He said he did not think RAWDON SMITH had been particularly active but had been well in with what he described as the "King's left". We asked him to expand on the implications of this description. HENDERSON said that by the "King's left" he meant the King's Apostles such as Eddie PLAYFAIR, Harry LINTOTT, Alister WATSON and others, who even after having gone down from University had stuck together.



Copy to: PF.604,861 (PLAYFAIR)  
 PF.604,604 (LLEWELYN-DAVIES)  
 L.255-14 Link A (COOKE)

Annexe to Summary of Berthold LUBETKIN

(PF.216,259)

It is interesting that when LUBETKIN was vetted for the I Corps in 1943, the file was minuted to BLUNT, for

- (i) his opinion on the reliability of the source who had said LUBETKIN was a Communist, and
- (ii) any further information he could obtain about LUBETKIN.

2. BLUNT replied to say that he had read through the rest of the source's information on Left Wing people at Cambridge and had the impression that the source was not well informed about their actual Party membership. (I have myself read the rest of the information and although it is true that source is often not certain about actual Party membership there is no doubt about the accuracy of the general tone of the reports made). BLUNT went on to say:

"Unfortunately the source from whom I hoped to get further information about LUBETKIN has just gone away for two or three weeks and as I understand you are wanting to settle this question quickly you will probably not want to wait till he comes back. It is, of course, well known that LUBETKIN has always been associated with very Left Wing movements, but there certainly seems to be no proof in these files that he was actually a member of the Communist Party".

3. It is probable from this and a later minute, 32, that the source who had gone away was LLEWELYN-DAVIES. BLUNT's second sentence suggests that he himself probably also knew LUBETKIN quite well but <sup>was</sup> not going to provide any of the evidence of Party membership so far lacking in the file!

4. The source of the information in paragraph 19 of the summary was Sir Edward PLAYFAIR (who was a referee for LUBETKIN when the latter applied for naturalisation, although he did not mention this point) and the other inhabitants of his flat at Highpoint were LLEWELYN-DAVIES, the Communist, and Francis COOKE, the Marxist sympathiser (another of LUBETKIN's naturalisation referees).

5. Dennis PROCTOR, when he was interviewed, confirmed PLAYFAIR's statement about LUBETKIN to the extent that he said that LLEWELYN-DAVIES had been much involved with a very pro-Soviet architect called Tolick LUBETKIN.

/6. BLUNT has . . . . .

As/KHS  
 19/1  
 10/10/42  
 14/1/71

6. BLUNT has never been asked about LUBETKIN. It is not clear (probably intentionally) in his 1943 minutes whether he knew him personally or only by hearsay, and he has never volunteered anything about him in the course of our many requests for information about BURGESS's friends. (LUBETKIN was mentioned by Alister WATSON, though not by name, in BLUNT's presence at the meeting of 5.9.67. at Brown's Hotel. WATSON reminisced about borrowing Portia HOLMAN's flat in Portman Square in 1934 and there or at that time meeting the "Soviet citizen"). It is just worth noting, though probably a complete coincidence, that when LUBETKIN was trying to contact a London District Communist Party official in March, 1945 he arranged to meet him at Park West Restaurant in Edgware Road. We might, if BLUNT is seen again, consider putting in a question about LUBETKIN and seeing his reactions.

7. If LLEWELYN-DAVIES is eventually seen he too should be asked about LUBETKIN. They would have had much in common - their career, architecture, which both studied in Paris, though not at the same time, and Communism.

8. If it is ever decided to see Francis COOKE he too should be asked about LUBETKIN.

9. LUBETKIN's name is already included for the brief for interview of ZUCKERMAN. Friendship between them has been alleged. This is probable because of LUBETKIN's architectural work for the Zoo. A link between them could also be John MADGE by way of LLEWELYN-DAVIES, or Eddie PLAYFAIR who was ZUCKERMAN's P.V. referee.

BP.

B. Palliser

K.3.  
13th January, 1971

SECRET

886

EXTRACT

Extract for File No.: PF 604,861 Name :

Original in File No.:\* PF 604,582 Supp A Vol.: 18 Serial: 2029 Receipt Date: 7.10.70

Original from: T/C material Under Ref.: 4304 Dated: 2.10.70

Extracted on: 29.1.71 by: MAS Section: K7

Extract from T/C on BLUNT - 935 1074

*RYLANDS.*

Incoming call DADIE to BLUNDEN.

He was coming to London on Saturday week, staying the night with PLAYFAIR, and planned to pay him a visit Sunday evening. BLUNDEN promised to ring him back at King's College Cambridge to let him know whether he could stay that night - GASKIN was expecting some relations, possibly that weekend.

18.38 J

\*If the original is in the file of an individual include the name of the file owner.

SECRET

86a

NOTE FOR FILE

Sir Edward Wilder PLAYFAIR, K.G.B.  
Summary and Assessment as at April, 1970.

PERSONAL PARTICULARS

Born: 17 May, 1909, in London.

Wife: 1941. Dr. Mary Lois RAE (N.T.)

Children: Three daughters.

Addresses: 1947: Old Church St., S.W.3.  
1952: Brewery House, Stansted, Essex.  
1965: 12 The Vale, Chelsea, S.W.3.

Education: Eton.  
King's College, Cambridge 1927-30.

Career: 1931-34: Inland Revenue.  
1934-46 and 1947-56: Treasury  
(Assistant Secretary, 1942, Under Secretary, 1947)  
1946-47: Seconded to Control Office for Germany and  
Austria (Under Secretary).  
1956-59: Permanent Under-Secretary of State of War.  
1960-61: Permanent Secretary Ministry of Defence.  
1961-65: Chairman, International Computers and  
Tabulators Ltd.

SECURITY RECORD

1a

The first record of PLAYFAIR is an intercept letter from him to John LEHMANN dated 3 June, 1934, in which he passes LEHMANN the name of a certain Gert. H. SCHLOTTMANN of Lichlerfelds I, Drakestr. 79, Berlin, whom he describes as "an extremely nice boy" in the Hitler Youth Organisation, an economist and "interesting as being one of the extreme radicals of the party" (i.e. the Hitler Youth). PLAYFAIR suggested that in case it might compromise SCHLOTTMANN to be visited by a Communist he might like to describe himself as a "non-Marxist" friend of PLAYFAIR's. LEHMANN is known to have been an active homosexual and it is not clear whether PLAYFAIR regarded SCHLOTTMANN as primarily of political or homosexual interest to LEHMANN. In 1952

19a

traces of a certain Gert SCHLOTTMANN of 30 Bendlerstr. Berlin, who in 1938 an M.P. friend of [redacted] had said was "likely to be concerned with

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ACT 1958 OCTOBER 2022

/espionage . . .

KSWL

8ba

espionage". Bendlerstr. 30 was the address of the German-English Society of which SCHLOTTMANN was said to be Secretary. Presumably the M.P. was referring to German espionage against the U.K. It is impossible to say whether this Gert SCHLOTTMANN was identical with the youth to whom PLAYFAIR introduced LEHMANN in 1934. Even if we assume that he was identical it is questionable whether the trace can be regarded as having any relevance to an assessment of PLAYFAIR.

Note

John LEHMANN (PF 41,490) was at Trinity College, Cambridge, from 1926-29. He was a communist sympathiser in the mid 'thirties but is not known to have been a Party member. He was a homosexual.

2. The only other pre-war trace is a letter dated 18 June, 1937, to Mrs. Yvonne KAPP from Quentin BELL saying that "Eddy PLAYFAIR writes that H.M. Government prevents him being of use to you". This was in the context of a meeting at the Albert Hall organised by the National Joint Committee of Spanish Relief.

Note

(1) Quentin BELL (PF 753,166), now Professor of the History and Theory of Art at Sussex University, is the son of Clive and Vanessa BELL and brother of Julian BELL. He has described himself in the late 'thirties as a left-wing Socialist who would have had no scruples about working with Communists or anyone else who would oppose Fascism. Julian BELL (N.T.) was at King's College, Cambridge, from 1927-34 and was killed serving with the International Brigade in Spain in 1937. PLAYFAIR has said that he knew the BELLS well during his time at King's College. (para. 16 of 41z).

(2) Yvonne KAPP (PF 45,720) is a journalist/writer with a history of membership of the C.P.G.B. dating from at least 1935. At the time in question (June, 1937) she was engaged in helping the National Joint Committee of Spanish Relief which was virtually Communist controlled.

3. During the war PLAYFAIR came to notice when he interceded on behalf of an internee Charlotte ARNHEIM, wife of Hans ARNHEIM (L.255-14) who had been sentenced to death by the French in Tunis in 1940 for espionage on behalf of Germany. ARNHEIM had committed suicide before being executed. This Office resisted the release of Charlotte ARNHEIM on the grounds that she had probably been involved in Hans ARNHEIM's espionage but refused to confess. At his interview with Peter Wright in March, 1966, PLAYFAIR volunteered that with the help of Jenifer FISCHER-WILLIAMS who was working in the Home Office he had gone to a lot of trouble on behalf of Charlotte ARNHEIM because his friend Francis COOKE (L.255-14) was in love with Charlotte and wished to marry her as soon as she was released; she had had a child by him in 1945 and COOKE is believed to have married her subsequently.

Note

Jenifer HART nee FISCHER-WILLIAMS (PF 606,150) was at Somerville College, Oxford, from 1932-36. She was a Communist from

8z

50z

1935 onwards and has admitted being in touch with the R.I.S. from 1937 until at least 1939 whilst an Assistant Principal at the Home Office.

4. PLAYFAIR appears to have met the ARNHEIMs through COOKE with whom he shared a flat in Highgate from about 1935 to 1938. It is likely that PLAYFAIR was used as an unconscious source by ARNHEIM as his name appeared in ARNHEIM's expense accounts. There has been speculation in recent years (361a in L.255-14) that ARNHEIM may have been a spy for the R.I.S. rather than for the Germans. If true this might suggest that PLAYFAIR was consciously helping the wife of an R.I.S. spy and might have acted as a source for the latter. But even if it is assumed that ARNHEIM was a Russian and not a German spy it must then be shown that PLAYFAIR knew that he was.

5. The rest of PLAYFAIR's file consists exclusively of comments about the likely degree of PLAYFAIR's involvement with communism or espionage by contemporary communists/left-wingers; and PLAYFAIR's own statements in the course of three Security Service interviews. The following are the main points that emerge:-

45a 6. BLUNT (PF 604,582) did not think that PLAYFAIR had been a communist or  
57a "very left-wing". He thought he had known BURGESS well but not intimately, mainly in the context of the Reform Club. If PLAYFAIR had been involved in BURGESS' activities BLUNT considered BURGESS would have given some hint of this to him (BLUNT). BLUNT thought that PLAYFAIR had been a homosexual in the past but probably not since he had got married (i.e. in 1941 at the age of 32).

Note

BLUNT was well placed to know about PLAYFAIR but there are suspicions that he may be concerned to protect persons whom he *believes are vulnerable.*

31a 7. Goronwy REES suggested that we should consider PLAYFAIR in the context of persons who might have worked for BURGESS' espionage ring but has not been asked the grounds for his statement. It is unlikely that this was anything more than speculation on the part of REES based on a knowledge of PLAYFAIR's left-wing views and involvement with the BURGESS circle.

Note

REES (PF 604,58<sup>3</sup>) was a member of the BURGESS circle and was recruited by the R.I.S. (*or "propagated by Burgess"*).

57z 8. Dennis PROCTOR (PF 604,597) described PLAYFAIR as "very left" before the war but only intellectually convinced, not emotionally, and hence in his view unlikely to be a spy.

Note

Dennis PROCTOR (PF 604,597) was a contemporary and close friend of PLAYFAIR's at King's College, Cambridge, who subsequently had a similar brilliant career in the Civil Service. He is not

/known . . .

known to have been a Communist but was certainly left-wing and has admitted that he has always been a Marxist at heart.

58z 9. Alister WATSON said that he thought PLAYFAIR was not a Communist although during the war he had held the view that the Communists would eventually take over the whole of Europe.

Note

WATSON (PF 47,496) was a Communist at Cambridge from 1934 onwards and has admitted working for the R.I.S. during the war.

69a 10. Stuart HAMPSHIRE's first comment was that PLAYFAIR had been far too shallow to have got emotionally involved in anything like clandestine activity. However, he later qualified this to the effect that PLAYFAIR had moved in very left-wing circles in the 1930s and "might conceivably have become involved".

Note

HAMPSHIRE (PF 606,769) was a Fellow of All Souls, Oxford, from 1936-40 at which period he knew BURGESS and several members of his circle.

50z 11. PLAYFAIR himself says that in about 1932 (i.e. after leaving Cambridge) he became very left-wing and associated with left-wing and Marxist circles at Cambridge. This was when he had met BURGESS (through Dennis PROCTOR or possibly Victor ROTHSCHILD) whom he came to know well. In the mid-thirties he had shared a flat with Richard LLEWELLYN-DAVIES and Francis COOKE (see para. 3 above). He described LLEWELLYN-DAVIES as a "Communist" and COOKE as a "Marxist sympathiser".

Note

Victor ROTHSCHILD (PF 605,671) was a Cambridge contemporary of PLAYFAIR's. He was left-wing and a member of the BURGESS circle.

LLEWELLYN-DAVIES (PF 604,604) was at Trinity College, Cambridge, from 1932 to 1935 during which period he was a member of the C.P.

12. As mentioned in para. 3 above PLAYFAIR mentioned of his own volition the story of his intercession on behalf of Charlotte ARNHEIM, the mistress and subsequently wife of his friend Francis COOKE. The fact that he raised the subject himself could be held to suggest that he feared the episode might be held against him and felt it advisable to get his story in first. If Charlotte was, as he maintained, the innocent wife of a German agent, there was in fact nothing reprehensible about his efforts to get her released.

/13. Asked . . .

13. Asked if he had ever been "approached" PLAYFAIR gave the rather curious reply that he had a bad memory but to the best of his recollection he had never been approached. This answer perhaps suggests that he was covering himself against the possibility that we had knowledge of an approach of some description. PLAYFAIR admitted that after BURGESS fled he had discussed with his friends what they should do and they had decided that the best thing was to lie low and say nothing. This attitude is inexplicable on the part of an Under-Secretary at the Treasury except on the basis that he did not wish his own past to be looked at by the authorities.

#### ASSESSMENT

14. PLAYFAIR was at Cambridge before Communism hit the University and all the evidence suggests that he was never a Communist in the full sense. However, after leaving Cambridge he was a member of the Cambridge left-wing circle that revolved around BURGESS and from which the R.I.S. was recruiting, and his access would of course have made him a plumb target. His curiously equivocal answer to the question as to whether he was ever approached suggests that he probably did receive an approach of some kind (perhaps from BURGESS) which he does not wish to confess as it would be an admission that he was regarded as recruitable.

15. The view taken of PLAYFAIR by most of his contemporaries seems to be that he had a clinically brilliant intellect - the perfect Civil Service mind - but was unlikely to have become so emotionally involved in the left-wing movement as to have become a spy. Perhaps it could equally well be argued that, once intellectually convinced that he should spy, he would have set about it with a dangerously cold efficiency. The fact remains that there are no intelligence grounds for believing that he was recruited.

#### RECOMMENDATION

16. Without some further lead there would seem little point in re-interviewing PLAYFAIR himself or any of the others who have given information.

#### SUMMARY

17. PLAYFAIR was a Civil Servant from 1931 to 1961, ending up as Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Defence. He is not known to have been politically involved during his time at Cambridge (1927-30) but he has admitted that from about 1932 he was "very left-wing" and moved in the Cambridge communist/left-wing circle that included BURGESS, LLEWELLYN-DAVIES, BLUNT etc. and from which the R.I.S. recruited a number of spies. His access would have made him a major target for the R.I.S. and despite his denials it seems likely that PLAYFAIR may have received an espionage approach of some kind, perhaps from BURGESS. The

/only . . .



only grounds for concluding that he may have been recruited are speculative in the extreme, however, and without some new lead it is doubtful whether anything more can be done to resolve such lingering doubts as may remain.

7/3/70. Arnold!

K.3

H. W. Arnold

6 May, 1970.

Reference PF.604,861

850

Copied to: <sup>PF 6042774</sup> L.255-14 Link A COOKE  
PF.604,604 LLEWELYN-DAVIES

Note for File

Sir Edward PLAYFAIR told Peter Wright that he shared a flat in London in the mid-thirties with Richard LLEWELYN-DAVIES and Francis COOKE. The flat was in St. James' and the years would have been 1935-1938. (See paragraph 2 of 50z). According to 7b PLAYFAIR's address in November, 1939 was 73, St. James' Street, S.W.1.

*He was married from this address in 1941 PA.*

2. Sir Henry LINTOTT told Peter Wright that PLAYFAIR shared a flat with Francis COOKE in Highgate. (See 66z).

3. In December, 1939 Francis COOKE lived at 21, High Point, North Hill, Highgate, N.6. (See 83a).

4. Voters List Enquiries show that from at least 1937 (the date of the earliest available register) to 1938 Arthur Francis COOKE and Edward Wilder PLAYFAIR were both registered at 21, High Point. By 1939 PLAYFAIR's name only appears on the register for the flats at 73, St. James' Street. There is no mention of LLEWELYN-DAVIES on these registers.

5. It seems likely that the flat shared by PLAYFAIR, COOKE and LLEWELYN-DAVIES was in fact the Highgate one and that in about 1939 PLAYFAIR moved to St. James' Street on his own.

*B. Palliser*

B. Palliser

K.3.

21st April, 1970.

*Handwritten scribbles and initials at bottom right corner.*

sha

Nº 2361

### Voters List Enquiry

(L.C.C. to 1964; G.L.C. 1964 onwards including current Register; England, Wales and Northern Ireland 1937/38 to last year's Registers—war years are excluded.)

Ref.: PF. 604, 861 *HELD RS*

Section *K.3.* Officer *B. Palliser* Date *17.3.70.*

Nº 2361

Please obtain particulars of all voters\*/voters named *COOKE, PLAYFAIR, LLEWELYN-DAVIES*

at the following address on the qualifying dates(s) 10th October, 19*34*, to 19*39*, inclusive  
separate years: *1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939*

Address:

21 High Point,  
North Hill,  
Highgate, N.6.

*W.*

\*Delete as necessary.

*Horseley (A)*

15.10.1937 *Earliest available registers*

*COOKE. Arthur Francis Benn.  
PLAYFAIR Edward. Wilder.*

15.10.1938 *As Above*

*1939 No issue owing to war.*

ENCE  
*K3 2/4*  
*PF 604, 861*

*8.4.78*

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*v3/wc*

83a

Reference.....PF.604,861

Note for File

At 75y in volume 1 of L.255-14 on which Francis COOKE is carded, there is a Special Branch report in which it is stated that in December, 1939 his address was 21, High Point, North Hill, Highgate, N.6.

2. The 1941 telephone directory has an entry for Francis B. COOKE at 38, High Point, North Hill, Highgate, N.6., telephone number MOU 3577.

*B. Palliser*

B. Palliser

K.3.  
17th March, 1970.

*103/104J*  
*17/3/70*

CONFIDENTIAL

PERSONAL

Copied to PF 604861 ✓ -PLAYFAIR

K3 5/3.

B.P.

81a

920

920

POL.F. 94-4-127/C.1.

IMG/67 936/83/1

10 March, 1970

Immigration Appeals

Thank you for your letter of 24 February 1970. We have no comment on the proposal to appoint Lord Gore-Booth or Lord Saville Garner of Chiddingley to the special panel of the Immigration Appeal Tribunal. However in the case of Sir Edward Playfair the proposal should be cleared with Sir Philip Allen at the Home Office with whom my Director General has discussed the nomination.

162a

2. We will let you know if we ourselves have any names to suggest for the panel.

W.A.F. Ruxton.

W.J. Bohan, Esq.,  
Immigration & Nationality Department,  
HOME OFFICE.

CONFIDENTIAL

PERSONAL

K3/10A-J  
11/3/70

800

# Voters List Enquiry

Nº 2363

(L.C.C. to 1964; G.L.C. 1964 onwards including current Register; England, Wales and Northern Ireland 1937/38 to last year's Registers—war years are excluded.)

Ref.: PF.604,861.....

Section K.3.....Officer B. Palliser.....Date 6.3.70.....

Nº 2363

Please obtain particulars of all voters\*/voters named..... see below.....

at the following address on the qualifying dates(s) 10th October, 1935 to 1939 inclusive.

Address: 73, St. James Street,  
London, S.W.1.

*Minister*

A.4.

We are sorry we did not give more information in our request of 2.3.70. The names we are looking for are: PLAYFAIR, COOKE and LLEWELYN-DAVIES. \*Delete as necessary. I am afraid we do not know the number of the flat. Could you also please give us any names which may appear as sharing a flat with one of the above named.

- 1935 No entries for these names. K3 S
- 1936 Cook - Thomas. ENCL  
Pg.
- 1937 Cook - Edwin Thomas. -9 MAR 1970  
10.                       
REF. PF.604,861.
- 1938 COOK - Edwin ~~Wilder~~ Thomas. HELD RS
- 1939 PLAYFAIR - Edward Wilder. (Survor)

In the pre-War years, there was no break-down of this address into flats, as now appears. The Register merely showed all occupants in alphabetical order.

A.4.  
9.3.70

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ACT 1958 OCTOBER 2022

K3/PAJ  
11/3/70

Nº 2364 *77a*

# Voters List Enquiry

(L.C.C. to 1964; G.L.C. 1964 onwards including current Register; England, Wales and Northern Ireland 1937/38 to last year's Registers—war years are excluded.)

Ref.: *PF.604,861*

Section *K.3* Officer *B. PALLISER* Date *2.3.70*

Nº 2364

Please obtain particulars of all voters\*/voters named ANY NAME

at the following address on the qualifying dates(s) 10th October, 1935..to 19..39 inclusive.

Address: *73, St. James Street,  
London, S.W.1.*

\*Delete as necessary.

*Pinfield*

*1935-39*

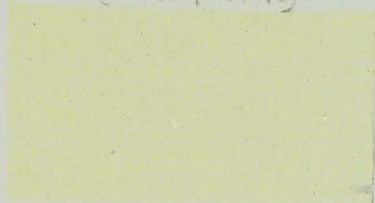
*Could you possibly give more information, please?*

*The above address covers about 30 large flats,  
with, of course, fluctuation of occupants from  
year to year.*

ENCL             
*B*  
TO: *K3* MAR 1970 *KX 4/3*  
REF: *PF604,861*  
(PLAYFAIR)

*A.4.*  
            
*4.3.70*

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ACT 1958 OCTOBER 2022



*K3/MAJ  
6/3/70*

COPY OF MINUTE ON POL.F.94-4-127 (Special Panel of  
Immigration Appeal  
Tribunal)

78A

*80* 165

C. through KX

Copy: PF.604,861

In answer to Bohan's letter at 162a,  
you may say simply that I have discussed  
the nomination of Sir Edward Playfair with  
Sir Philip Allen.

D.G.

E. M. FURNIVAL JONES

4th March 1970

*R*

*DE/WW  
#/3*



SECRET

Reference... PF 604861.....

73A

Note

Various K.3 sources have told us about a club called the Cranium Club, founded in 1925 by David GARNETT (N.T.). It continues to the present day. It has been described as a "left-wing intellectual dining club of a Bloomsbury pink variety" and over the years numerous people of known Communist or K.3 interest have belonged to it.

2. Included among these are:-

- [ SPENDER PF 43649
- [ TREVELYAN PF 45912
- [ PROCTOR PF 604597
- [ LINTOTT PF 607236
- [ QUIRK PF 605670
- [ LLEWELYN-DAVIES PF 604604
- [ HAMPSHIRE PF 606769
- [ ZUCKERMAN PF 61365

GUARD

GUARD

(copied to individual PF's listed)

K.3  
13.6.69

B. Palliser

B. Palliser

~~W. G.~~  
18/6/69  
K3/B  
16/6

SECRET

Note

It is interesting to note from statements made by different people at different times, on record in this file, that there is some sort of misunderstanding between the various "friends" involved about Eddie PLAYFAIR's failure to be a member of the Apostles.

2. On 11.2.65 BLUNT said that Eddy was not an Apostle, thought he should have been, and behaved rather as though he were (45a).
3. On 27.3.65 Mrs. REES mentioned Eddie PLAYFAIR as one of the Apostles (46b). Perhaps she had been misled by his behaving as though he were!
4. On 20.5.65 PLAYFAIR himself said that BLUNT had blackballed him for the Apostles and that BLUNT thought him a bore and a fool (p.2, 50z).
5. On 8/9.2.66 PROCTOR said PLAYFAIR was a very close friend of his but that he had blackballed him for the Apostles and still felt he was right to have done so (52z).
6. In other words, it appears that PLAYFAIR blames BLUNT for something which PROCTOR admits to having done.

K.3  
12.6.69

*B. Palliser*  
B. Palliser

SECRET

71A

D.V.G. *incl 6/6.*

~~KX~~ *[Signature]* 6/6.

K3 to see

NOTE FOR PF.604,861

I called on Sir William Armstrong this morning to discuss with him the suggestion that PLAYFAIR might be a member of the committee to \* examine the scope of protective security procedures.

I gave him a brief account of the information and opinions about PLAYFAIR which we had obtained, stressing that I had no evidence that he was currently a security risk. I referred in particular to the extreme left views that he had certainly held in the past; to his friendship with, among others, Jennifer HART, Alister WATSON, Guy BURGESS and Anthony BLUNT, and to his long friendship with Dennis PROCTOR. I referred to Wright's interviews with PROCTOR in February 1966 and with PLAYFAIR in March 1966 and May 1968. I drew attention to his statement at 'X' in paragraph 4 of 50z, which Armstrong clearly found shocking, and to the answer at 'X' in paragraph 5 of 65z. I told Armstrong, in the context of PLAYFAIR's friendship with Dennis PROCTOR, that the latter had said in 1966 that he continued to be a Marxist to this day.

3. In the light of this, I said that it might at the least be embarrassing if he were to be intimately concerned with an enquiry about security. Having heard me out, Armstrong said that he was glad that I had told him about PLAYFAIR because his name was not infrequently proposed for various tasks but that he had already decided in his own mind not to put PLAYFAIR's name forward because he thought "that in the last few years he had deteriorated and was now rather silly". On 'X' of 65z, he commented that I was right in thinking that PLAYFAIR had a remarkable memory and that if an approach had been made to him he could not have failed to recall it. PLAYFAIR was a very vain man and particularly vain about his mental capacity. He

/x

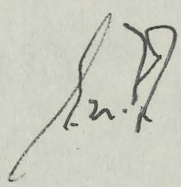
\*POL.F.53-8-289

SECRET

*[Green checkmark]*  
Dg/mw  
6/6

SECRET

thought a possible explanation of his claim to have a bad memory, might be attributable to this vanity. He might suspect that we knew that an approach had been made to him but he could not bring himself to admit that he hadn't recognised it.

A handwritten signature or set of initials, possibly 'D.G.', written in dark ink. The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

D.G.

6th June 1969

SECRET

Entry in WHO's WHO 1969

Sir Edward Wilder PLAYFAIR, K.C.B., (1957)  
(C.B. 1949); Director, National Westminster  
Bank Ltd., Glaxo Group Ltd., Tunnel  
Portland Cement; Equity & Law Life  
Assnce. Soc. Ltd.;

Born 17.5.1909; son of the late  
Dr. Ernest Playfair. Married 1941  
Dr. Mary Lois Rae; 3 daughters.

Educated Eton, Kings College Cambridge.  
Inland Revenue 1931-34; Treasury 1934-46  
(Control Commission for Germany & Austria  
1946-47); Treasury 1947-56; Permanent  
Under Secretary of State for War 1956-59;  
Permanent Secretary M.O.D. 1960-61;  
Chairman, International Computers &  
Tabulators Ltd. 1961-65; Governor,  
Imperial College of Science & Technology  
1958; College Committee of University  
College London 1961.

Trustee, The Observer, National Gallery;

Address: 12 The Vale, London S.W.3.  
Telephone Flaxman 4671.

Club: Brooks's

K.3  
2.6.69

GUARDTOP SECRET

Reference PF 606,769

69A

Note of interview of Stuart HAMPSHIRE on  
12 March, 1969, at 34 Walton St., S.W.3. by  
K3/P.M.Wright.

Ext. on 25.4.69 for PF 604861 by K3/KS

.....

18. Two and a half hours had passed since we started talking and I began to break up the meeting. HAMPSHIRE said he would like to raise one more issue. Had we considered Hector McNEIL? BURGESS had appeared to have a considerable hold over him. He knew that in the late 30s or early 40s McNEIL had been in money trouble, and had gone to John STRACHEY. STRACHEY had told him to go to Guy BURGESS who could help him. (HAMPSHIRE had the story from STRACHEY). He added that another name I had mentioned last time, that of Eddie PLAYFAIR, had produced in him the reaction that Eddie was far too shallow to have got emotionally involved in anything like clandestine activity. He had been thinking about this. He still thought Eddie very much a cold fish but all the same he had been very closely in with the galere in London in the 1930s. It was conceivable that he had become involved, because it was the thing to do in that circle. Once involved it would be very difficult to break away.

.....

K.3  
8.4.69

Peter M. Wright

GUARDTOP SECRET

K3/KS  
2/5/69

EXTRACT

68A

861

PLAYFAIR

Extract for File No.: PF 604582 Name: BLUNDEN

Original in File No.: Supp A 07 PF604582 Vol.: 16 Serial: 1701 Receipt Date: 3.3.69

Original from: T/C Under Ref.: 4304 Dated: 26.2.69

Extracted on: 26.3.69 by: KS Section: K3

27.2.69 Thursday

Outgoing call BLUNDEN to WEL 0313, the Senegal Embassy, the Ambassador's secretary.  
 BLUNDEN and HASKIN were invited to dinner this evening.  
 Distant confirmed that they were expected at 8.0 pm .  
 12.28

Outgoing call BLUNDEN to 352 4671 EDDIE.  
 BLUNDEN wished to have a talk about possibly buying the house next door. He had discovered by chance that the Senegal Embassy was up for sale on a 34 year lease. The Ambassador was extremely nice and sympathetic. He was 6 ft tall aged 32 and almost pure white and his name is VALENTIN. BLUNDEN was sitting back in absolute misery because the University had said they could not put up the money for it. This morning however there came an offer of £10,000 to start a fund for this. BLUNDEN was meeting LIONEL this afternoon. BLUNDEN suggested he and EDDIE had a talk about it and this was agreed though EDDIE held little hope of his getting the sum -£107,000. Further about institute matters.  
 13.50

28.2.69 Friday

Incoming call to BLUNDEN from MICHAEL ARIOT (French)  
 Distant was over here with others on a cultural visit.  
 BLUNDEN, who knew him, agreed for him to come to the library tomorrow morning. They would meet after distant's work in the library

\*If the original is in the file of an individual include the name of the file owner

Handwritten signature and date: 27/3

Handwritten notes: K3/8 26/3

**SECRET**  
EXTRACT

67A

Extract for File No. PF 604861 Name: PLAYFAIR  
PF 604582 BLUNDEN

Original in File No. :\* PF 604582 Supp A Vol. : 1685a Receipt Date : 31.1.69

Original from : T/C Under Ref. : 4304 Dated : 24.1.69

Extracted on : 17.2.69 by : KS Section : K.3

\*If the original is in the file of an individual include the name of the file owner.

Outgoing call BLUNDEN to SIR EDWARD PLAYFAIR.  
 (beginning missed due to technical fault)  
 A conversation about institute matters. BLUNDEN accepted his  
 invitation to lunch at BROOK's on Monday.  
 14.01

**SECRET**



K3/K8  
17/2



SECRET

66c

EXTRACT

Extract for File No.: PF 604861 Name: PLAYFAIR

Original in File No.:\* PF 604582 Vol.: 16 Serial: 1707a Receipt Date: 12.3.69

Original from: T/C Under Ref.: 4304 Dated: 10.3.69

Extracted on: 2.6.69 by: KS Section: K3

Ext from T/C:

I/c to BLUNDEN from George JANETSKI.  
 BLUNDEN invited him to come up and join him,  
 John and Eddie.

1813.

*(on staff of Comstock Institute)*

\*If the original is in the file of an individual include the name of the file owner.

SECRET

K3/OS  
2/16/69

EXTRACT

66B

PF 604597

PF 604861

PROCTOR

PLAYFAIR

Extract for File No. .... Name : .....

Original in File No. : \* PF 604582 Supp A ..... Vol. : ..... Serial : 1661a ..... Receipt Date : 20.12.68 .....

Original from : T/C ..... Under Ref. : 4504 ..... Dated : 16.12.68 .....

Extracted on : 2.6.69 ..... by : KS ..... Section : K3 .....

Extract from T/C:

O/g BLUNDEN to Sir Denis PROCTOR.

Congratulating him on being made an honorary Fellow of KINGS. BLUNDEN has been told by EDDIE who he had seen today. BLUNDEN will ring PROCTOR in New Year and hope to see him.

1901.

\*If the original is in the file of an individual include the name of the file owner.

K3/B  
7/6/69

pa in  
PF 604861.

66A

from The Times

26.11.68

### REFORM OF THE LORDS

*From Sir Edward Playfair*

Sir,—If we are to have an upper house which will soon be divorced from the hereditary peerage, why should it be a House of Lords at all? Already, in a functional house increasingly dominated by life peers, all the funny business of titles, change of appellation (often enforced), dressing up on state occasions, Hon. for children and the rest, seems inappropriate and will soon become absurd; to the incumbents it must often be inconvenient.

If the members of the Upper House were to be plain Mister (unless born otherwise), with appropriate letters after their names like members of the House of Commons, it would suit them far better; and a line could be drawn under the hereditary peerage, which would remain as a pleasant piece of antiquarianism, devoid of political import and no longer subject to dilution.

In all the debate on the subject, I have not yet seen this suggested; and I cannot conceive why.

I am, Sir, your faithful servant,

E. W. PLAYFAIR.

12 The Vale, S.W.3.

M. S.  
2.1.69

4/08  
2.1.69

Extract from Note for File/Interview Report

662

Extract for File No. PF.604,861 Name PLAYFAIR  
 Original in File No. PF.607,236 Serial 25a Dated 25.11.68.  
 Date and Place of \*Interview/Meeting. XXXXX Room 055 on 11.11.68.  
 with (also give security context of person being interviewed) Sir Henry LINTOTT, acquaintance of  
 BURGESS at Cambridge  
 Subject  
 Officer P. M. Wright using @ of Section K.3.  
 Extracted by KAJ Section K3 Date 30.1.70.

.....

Contrast  
PLAYFAIR'S  
Statement  
on p.4  
of 502

5. Asked about Eddie PLAYFAIR, he described him as "a very close friend indeed". Eddie knew the same sort of people - probably not a special friend of WATSON but quite likely kept up more with BURGESS than LINTOTT had done.

.....

10. Asked about the OGPU Club, the pre-war club for civil servants, he said he remembered a group of civil servants engaged in rather childish research into the problems a Socialist Government would face in England, of which Roger QUIRK was an active member. He asked if this was called the OGPU Club, and only then acknowledged that he was a member of it. For other members he suggested Charles de PEYER, Eddie PLAYFAIR and Dennis PROCTOR.

.....

24. Asked about Francis COOK he said he knew him through his having shared a flat with Eddie PLAYFAIR.  
 \* He said this flat was in Highgate.

\* PLAYFAIR himself said the flat was in S. James - see p.1 of 502. Compare 7b.

\*Strike out inapplicable.

K3/KAJ  
2/3/70

Extract from Tape Recording of the same interview

.....

PMW Eddie PLAYFAIR - did you know him?

L. Very close friend indeed

PMW Yes. Would you think he was relevant to our studies or not?

L Well I mean - relevant to your studies in that - to the extent that I'm relevant to your studies - I think he may have known some of these people better than I did - some possibly less well. I don't think that he was a special friend of Alistair WATSON at King's; on the other hand I think he may have kept up with GB more than I did - I don't know.

PMW You didn't meet - you don't remember meeting Eddie and Guy together after Cambridge.

L. I don't - er - As I say, I don't remember meeting Guy except at Apostle dinners and Eddie Playfair was not a member of the Apostles - er - until this chance meeting after the war.

.....

PMW Did you ever know anything about an organisation known as the OGPU club? Sort of Civil Service Club before the war

L. (Pause) Now wait a second (stammers) I didn't remember the name - there was a group of Civil Servants who were - who did what I suspect was a lot of rather childish research into the problems with which a Socialist government would be faced in England and Roger QUIRK was an active member of that. Was that called the OGPU?.

PMW Yes

L. Yes - I was a member of that

PMW You don't remember who the other members were? We are trying to determine <sup>the</sup> the members of this organisation.

L. Roger QUIRK - yes - Charles de PEYER

PMW Yes

L. I have the impression one or two of the other people whose names you have mentioned were in it. Was Eddie PLAYFAIR?

PMW Yes

L. Dennis PROCTOR? May have seen him. Not so sure about him.

PMW (quietly)-keeping him going rather than agreeing) Yes.

L. I do remember it now - yes. I wouldn't have thought that a very sinister organisation.

PMW No - its just these associations of people.

PMW Do you know Francis COOK a friend of Eddie PLAYFAIR?

L. He shared a flat with Eddie but I only knew him through that fact. ~~Before the war~~

PMW Before the war in St. James'

L. It was in Highgate actually.

PMW Highgate was it.

65c

THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT  
RETAINED IN DEPARTMENT  
UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF  
THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958.

Persons (other than file owners)  
identified from PLAYFAIR's list  
at 65a

*An piece*

David GARNETT, C.B.E. Author. Born 1892.  
Married ~~Vanessa~~ *Vanessa* Bell as his second wife, daughter of  
Clive Bell. Hilton Hall, Huntingdon.

*file?* Raymond MORTIMER, C.B.E. Author. Born 1895

Gerald BRENNAN, M.C. Author. Born 1894

*file?* Leonard WOOLF Writer. Born 1880

Lytton STRACHEY Author. Born c. 1880

Lionel PENROSE, F.R.S. Doctor. Born 1898

*Has a file in fact PF 753,166* Prof. Quentin BELL Painter, sculptor, etc.  
Born 19.8.10. Son of Clive Bell. Professor at  
Sussex University.

Maxwell NEWMAN Born 1897. Professor  
at Manchester University (Mathematics)

*has a file in fact PF 43649* Stephen SPENDER, C.B.E. Poet. Born 1909

Professor Ernst GOMBRICH, C.B.E. Born 1909 (Vienna).  
History of Art

Laurence GOWING, C.B.E. Painter and writer. Born  
1918. Pupil of William Coldstream. Professor at  
University of Leeds.

Benedict NICOLSON Editor, Burlington Magazine  
Born 6.8.1914. (Son of Harold NICOLSON - PF 604870)

K.3  
8.5.68

*B. Palliser*  
B. Palliser



01-352 4671.

Reld 7.5.68.  
PF604 861

12 THE VALE,  
LONDON, S.W. 3.

5 May 1968

BSA

My dear Wright,

Here is a very incomplete roster of the Cranium. It was founded in 1925 by David Garnett. I have divided the names roughly into decades of election. Many people dropped out of practical membership after a time, so that (e.g.) Raymond Mortimer and Solly Zuckerman would never have been at a meeting together. I have starred those who to my knowledge - which is incomplete since I seldom go myself - attend nowadays.

Twenties

D. Garnett*	S. Tomlin	F. Birrell	C. Sanger
B. Russell	G. Lowes Dickinson		L. Strachey
O. Strachey	R. Mortimer	L. Woolf*	L. Penrose*
T. Marshall	G. Brenan		

Thirties

Julian Bell	Quentin Bell*	R. Quirk	R. Cohen
Myself*	D. Proctor*	H. Lintott*	S. Spender
J. Trevelyan*	D. MacCarthy*	R. Llewelyn Davies	
Max Newman			

PF 45912, 597, 604  
PF 605670, 607, 236, 604, 604  
PF 43649  
? Ruth COHEN - but - see 61a "all male"

GUARD

Post-War

N. Annan	W. Coldstream*	L. Gowing*	B. Nicolson*
S. Zuckerman	S. Hampshire	Prof. Barnicot	
Prof. Gombrich*	C. Strachey*	A younger Penrose	
R. Garnett*			

GUARD

As you will see, the names above confirm the general account which I gave you of it.

Yours ever,

Eddie Playfair

9/5/68

Noted in the files of file owners.

652

Note for File

I saw Sir Edward PLAYFAIR at Brooks Club on 3rd May 1968.

2. I asked him about the O.G.P.U. Club. He said that this was a left wing association of young men in the First Division of the Civil Service. It was formed before the War by Roger QUIRK who was the Secretary, and met at intervals. From time to time the members wrote papers. At least one paper was published by the N.F.R.B. (New Fabian Research Bureau). He remembered as members besides Roger QUIRK and himself, Jennifer FISCHER-WILLIAMS, Harry LINTOTT, Dennis PROCTOR and Charles de PEYER (the last named was Under Secretary at the Ministry of Fuel and Power but was eventually sacked by Norman Brook who found his minutes tended to be too left wing).
3. PLAYFAIR advised against our talking to de PEYER. He thought he would be unlikely to be co-operative. He told me that Dennis PROCTOR was now thoroughly prejudiced against me and expressed great annoyance at the interviews we were undertaking. Roger QUIRK was, of course, dead and he thought we would be unlikely to get any "change" out of Jennifer HART (FISCHER-WILLIAMS). This left only Harry LINTOTT. PLAYFAIR said he would search his memory for others but the Club was a pretty exclusive one.
4. I questioned him about Roger QUIRK. In order to draw PLAYFAIR out I deliberately told him the falsehood that there was an allegation that QUIRK had been approached. He said that Roger QUIRK was an idealist of left wing views, essentially a Marxist but not ever, he thought, a Party member although he did not know this. QUIRK had a chip on his shoulder, was a bit of a bore and was disliked by people like Norman Brook. PLAYFAIR remembered having to plead with Brook to get Roger his C.B. I asked if it would surprise him if Roger had in fact been approached. He said that it would not. I then asked PLAYFAIR if he thought Roger would have owned up to it. His immediate reaction was that he was sure Roger would have done so but on second thoughts he was not so certain. He described him as a weak idealist who did not get as far as his ability should have taken him.
5. I took the opportunity to ask Sir Edward PLAYFAIR whether he himself had ever been approached. He said that he had a very bad memory. He could not deny that an approach had been made but he had no recollection of it. I explained to him that the approach would not have been made as a request to work for Russia but for world peace etc. etc. He brushed this aside with "of course, of course" and said that if he did remember anything he would tell me.
6. I asked PLAYFAIR what the Cranium Club was. He said it was a left wing intellectual dining club of a Bloomsbury pink variety, not confined to civil servants. He would try and construct for me a list of members. The club was still in existence (and PLAYFAIR evidently still a member).
7. PLAYFAIR remarked to me that he was that day lunching with Richard LLEWELYN-DAVIES and asked if I would like to meet him. I said that if Richard arrived before I left I would very much like to meet him but I took care to leave fairly soon. PLAYFAIR commented that LLEWELYN-DAVIES would be a good authority on Roger QUIRK and that he was "all right now, I think". I asked him what he meant by this but he evaded the question and I decided not to press him on this occasion as I wanted to leave before LLEWELYN-DAVIES arrived. I did not consider this a good moment to meet

/him.....

PF 604 597, PF (de P) 147, 333  
 Extd to PFs 605670, 606150, 607236

X  
 Extd to PF 604 604

him for the first time.

8. My impression of PLAYFAIR as a rather "slippery" customer was confirmed by this meeting. He is a man of approaching sixty, who looks about forty, and has a certain brittle quality about him, leaving one with no satisfactory impression of his real character or thoughts. From this point of view he is quite the most unattractive and unsatisfactory of this set of people.

D.3.

7<sup>th</sup> ~~10~~th May 1968

*Plz P. M. Wright*

P. M. Wright

Tel: 01-930-9400  
Ext. 393

PF. 604861  
File  
L.B.

Room 053

L.A.

64A

25th April 1968

Dear Sir Edward,

You will remember that in the Spring of 1965 we had a chat in Carlton Gardens about your recollections of Burgess' circle. This was very useful to me.

One or two points have arisen since on which I think you may be able to help me. I wonder whether we could meet again at your convenience? If so, would you care to suggest a meeting place.

Yours sincerely,

P. M. Wright

Sir Edward Playfair, K.C.B.,  
12 The Vale,  
London, S.W.3.

✓

Original filed in PF.604,582 vol.12. serial 607b

**TOP SECRET**

Reference.....PF.604,861

63a

Extract from Note for File by D.3/Mr. P.M. Wright,  
dated 29.2.68:-

.....

"I saw Sir Anthony BLUNT at his flat on  
the evening of 24th January, 1968.

.....

6. I asked BLUNT what happened between him and  
Patrick SEALE. He said that SEALE had written to him  
and that he had not bothered to answer. Eddie PLAYFAIR,  
hearing this from him, said that it was a pity he had  
not answered, that Patrick SEALE was a very nice person  
and he should have seen him.

D.3.

(signed) Peter M. Wright

29.2.68

Extracted by D.3/PF, 29.3.68

**TOP SECRET**

D3/PF  
29.3.68

b2a

Part 1.

Section and Officer of origin D.3/BP Report No. 42  
Action copy to PF.216,259 Information copy to PF.604,861 Typing Date 17-11-67

REPORT

Source is a fairly distinguished person, who, on his own admission, was very left wing at Cambridge in the 1930's and associated with the Left Wing and Marxist circle there, knowing Guy BURGESS and many others. He has said that in the years 1935-38 he shared a flat in London with two others, one a Communist, the other a Marxist sympathiser. This flat was a centre for Left Wing friends and BURGESS often used to visit it. He said that the "elder statesman" among the group was an architect called Tolick LUBETKIN, who had come from Russia in the early twenties. He sympathised with the Soviet regime and had a great influence on them all. He formed the business firm of TECTON with Godfrey SAMUEL. He was the chief architect for Peterlee. Source thought that LUBETKIN married a Marxist girl called Margaret CHURCH.

[ BASED on ~~57~~ 502 ]

This copy to be returned to the section of origin

Part II.

COMMENTS BY SECTION OF ORIGIN

Source believed to be reliable.

WARNING  
REFER TO APPROPRIATE  
OFFICER BEFORE USING

Part III.

COMMENTS BY CONSUMER SECTION

(Value, interest, probability, extent to which confirmed by other sources, etc.)

Thank you.. P.As in PF 216 259 -

20.11.67.

*[Handwritten signature]*  
ndh

H5/16  
8/2  
D3/16  
22.11.67

Note for File

In discussion with D.3/Mr. Wright and D.1/Inv. Mr. Stewart on 12.9.67, Alister WATSON (PF.47,496) said that in about 1939 he was a regular attender at an all-male dining club for graduates of Oxford or Cambridge called the Cranium Club. He remembered Roger QUIRK, Alan CLUTTON-BROCK, Murray GARLAND, Harry LINTOTT, Eddie PLAYFAIR, possibly Richard LLEWELYN-DAVIES as members, but not Guy BURGESS.

*B. Palliser*

D.3.

B. Palliser

30.10.67

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~D.~~ through ~~SECRETARIAT~~

*Handwritten initials and date: JH 25/10*

*Handwritten: 60a*

*Handwritten: D3 Sam 27/10*

NOTE FOR PF.604,861

Sir Edward PLAYFAIR told me on 18th October that he had been given an explanation of the cutting from PRIVATE EYE of 13th October (filed at 58c ).

2. He was apparently supposed to have arranged for money to be sent to BURGESS or MACLEAN or both while he was at the Treasury. He had not in fact done any such thing.

3. PLAYFAIR had received no special explanation about the reference to Sir Hugh STEPHENSON but supposed that it was an oblique reference to his chairmanship of the J.I.C.

D.G.

*Handwritten signature: D.G.*

25th October 1967

CONFIDENTIAL

*Handwritten: D3/PF 27.10.67*



SECRET

59A

D. to see  
19/8

NOTE FOR PF.604,861

Extract to  
POL.F.58-25-1  
ct. to see

rang me this morning to tell me, among other things, that he had lunched with Sir Edward PLAYFAIR the previous week, when PLAYFAIR had told him that he was a trustee of the Observer and that the Observer was going to abide by the 'D' Notice procedure.

PLAYFAIR had referred to the enquiries that we were making into communism in the 1930s. This may explain the front page article in the Observer for Sunday, 8th October - "New Probe of the 'Suspect Generation'". (S&S)

Very likely!  
19/8 J

12/1

D.G.

16th October 1967

SECRET

✓  
JG/MJW  
16/10

THIS IS A COPY  
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958 OCTOBER 2022

58c

EXTRACT FROM "PRIVATE EYE" (NO.152) DATED  
13TH OCTOBER 1967

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MEMO TO:

*Sunday Times* sleuths engaged in baiting the 'D' Notice Committee by naming names - we recommend the following (taken from a well-known book of reference):

**PLAYFAIR, Sir Edward Wilder, K.C.B.**  
1957 (C.B. 1949); Director: Westminster Bank; Glaxo Group Ltd.; Tunnel Portland Cement; *b.* 17 May 1909; *s.* of late Dr. Ernest Playfair and of Mrs. Playfair, Fishbourne, I.O.W.; *m.* 1941, Dr. Mary Lois Rae; three *d. Educ.*: Eton; King's Coll., Cambridge.  
Inland Revenue, 1931-34; H.M. Treasury, 1934-36 and 1947-56 (Control Office for Germany and Austria, 1946-47); Permanent Under-Sec. of State for War, 1956-59; Permanent Sec., Ministry of Defence, 1960-61, Chairman, International Computers and Tabulators Ltd., 1961-65. Gov., Imperial Coll. of Science and Technology, 1958-; College Cttee. of Univ. Coll., London, 1961-; Trustee of The Observer. *Address*: 12 The Vale, S.W.3. *T.*: Flaxman 4671. *Club*: Brooks's.

**STEPHENSON, Sir Hugh (Southern).**  
K.C.M.G. 1956 (C.M.G. 1954); C.I.E. 1947; C.V.O. 1957; O.B.E. 1944; Ambassador to South Africa since 1963 (High Comm. of Basutoland, the Bechuanaland Protectorate and Swaziland until the abolition of this office in August 1964); (First) Chancellor of the University of Basutoland, Bechuanaland Protectorate and Swaziland since 1964; *b.* 29 Nov. 1906; *s.* of late Sir Hugh Stephenson, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I.; *m.* 1936, Patricia Elizabeth, *d.* of late Maj.-Gen. Sir Arthur Mills, C.B., D.S.O.; three *s. Educ.*: Winchester Coll.; Christ Church, Oxf. 1st cl. hon., Jurisprudence. Barrister-at-Law (Inner Temple). Entered Indian Civil Service, 1931; Under-Secretary to Govt of India, 1935-38; Secretary to Government of United Provinces, 1940-44; Collector and Dist. Magistrate, Cawnpore, 1944-47. H.M. Foreign Service since 1947; H.M. Ambassador to Viet Nam, 1954-57; Consul-General in New York, 1957-60; Deputy Under-Secretary of State, Foreign Office, 1960-63. *Address*: British Embassy, Cape Town/Protoria, South Africa. *Club*: Oriental.

D31/PF  
27.10.67

586

Date... 8-10-67

THE OBSERVER

# New probe of the 'Suspect Generation'

by a Staff Reporter

BRITISH security is intensifying its probe into the Suspect Generation—the Communist-penetrated generation of the 1930s which produced Philby, Burgess, Maclean, and the atomic spy, Nunn May.

The investigation is proceeding with the utmost caution and delicacy as the authorities are anxious to avoid anything that might appear like a witch-hunt.

This official interest was not sparked off by THE OBSERVER's revelations last week of Philby's long career as a Soviet agent. It is the result of a debate on the Philby case which has split British security and intelligence services ever since Philby defected in 1963.

The fight was between those who believed that, with Philby identified, all the spies of the thirties had been uncovered—and a rival faction which held that Whitehall might still be deeply penetrated.

In the last two months it has become clear that the hardliners, who favour further investigations, have gained the upper hand.

They argue that Communist influence, dating from the anti-Fascist era,

reached a far wider circle than the tiny group of which Philby was the most important. They maintain that in the thirties Britain lost the loyalty of a very substantial part of the intelligentsia. This posed a grave problem for the Government of the time, but an even graver one today, because men who were young then now dominate British public life. They are Civil Service chiefs, captains of industry, newspaper editors, generals.

Men at Oxford and Cambridge in the 1930s joined Communist clubs and societies in droves and with little hesitation. For most, it was not a durable connection. The Nazi-Soviet Pact, the Russian invasion of Finland, the about-turns of the party line on Tito, the Soviet tanks in Hungary—all these symptoms of Soviet *realpolitik* took their toll of party sympathy in the West.

Left-wing intellectuals could afford the luxury of public recantation. But men who went straight from university into government service, the professions or industry tended to bury from the start their Communist sympathies. It was among this group, which self-interest had driven into the ranks of the Establishment, that Russia would look for potential agents.

The fear is not so much that there may be a 'fourth man' within British Intelligence, but rather that Communist agents of the Philby generation may have risen to prominence in other walks of British life.

The task facing the security services is immensely complex. It involves not only a tooth-comb examination of the British Communist Party and its many sympathisers and front organisations in the 1930s, but also all the many ramifications of the International Communist movement in Europe.

The 'suspect generation' is under scrutiny. They are all men born within a year or two of one another, roughly speaking between 1910 and 1914; men who today are in their prime.

BS 23  
23-10-67

D3 (3P)

58a

# Improving the top echelon of the Civil Service

Extracted from an article in "Management Decision" by Sir Edward Playfair, a former Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence

For many years the structure of the Civil Service was taken more or less for granted, and liked or disliked according to one's point of view. The establishment of the Fulton Committee has led to a healthier attitude: people are starting to ask what kind of Civil Service the country needs today and what changes, however fundamental, must be made to its structure. This has led to a flood of memoranda put in to the committee by the Treasury, by Civil Service trade unions by other bodies and by individuals. These are often communicated to the press, so that more fresh ideas are now being publicly mooted than at any time in living memory. All this is to the good; but there is one danger, that of the growth of a new accepted doctrine, on which practically everyone agrees, but which is not necessarily right. Even if the Fulton Committee is able to sift the wheat from the chaff, it seems worth looking critically at some contemporary ideas.

Here is the new orthodoxy, as I see it, summarized from memoranda to the Fulton Committee:

The main function of the Civil Service today is management. The administrative class is something of a hangover from the past: splendid men of high intellect, but exclusively recruited from Oxbridge, subject to promotion from the executive class as a secondary source, and devoid of any management training, who find themselves in charge of great machines which they do not know how to control. They are too inbred. Scientists and professionals in the Civil Service are overlooked when it comes to promotion to top jobs; outsiders are practically never let in. There should be more interchange with the outside world; and the main cure for all these ills is to have a single managerial class which would run together today's administrative and executive classes, with special provisions for late entry of graduates and others. There should be more elaborate provision for management training.

I believe there are difficulties overlooked, mistakes and omissions in this view.

Some posts are highly managerial, but a great many are not. Beside managerial posts, there are jobs whose main purpose is control in a very general sense (e.g. the Treasury in relation to spending departments and the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in relation to local authorities). Their holders must certainly understand management principles, but they do not exercise managerial powers in any ordinary sense. There are also posts which are semi-technical, in that they are concerned with development of policy and negotiation in particular fields, of which overseas departments are a notable example. Both the control and the semi-technical branches of Whitehall are closely concerned with political treatment of their subjects.

## DEMANDING TASK

As the civil servant gets towards the



Service are the kind who get into Oxbridge. Northern universities have produced far fewer civil servants than one would wish, partly because Oxbridge creams the northerners and partly because Whitehall life is geographically and vocationally remote from those whose whole life has been in the North. So the image sticks and has some validity.

However, the administrative class is by no means entirely composed of graduates directly recruited. A large proportion is made up of promoted executives (who may be graduates, but usually are not).

I cannot claim that the same care is taken to recruit into the administrative class suitable scientists and professionals from Civil Service technical classes: such recruitments are rarer and more casual.

This leads to the great question: should the administrative class be run together with the executive class into one big managerial class? Almost everyone, including the Treasury, holds this view. No doubt lip-service must be paid to it: the emotive name must be abolished just as the equally emotive name of First Division by which it used to be known was abolished long ago. It may be wise to draw the boundaries of the new top class rather wider, so as to blur the Oxbridge image, to allow in graduates with less splendid degrees and to make room for transfers from the technical branches.

But if in substance the fliers and the non-fliers are to be brought into a single vast class, governed broadly by the same rules throughout, it will be a profoundly retrograde move.

The bane of today's enormous Civil Service is that it is far too institutionalized. What between its size, the agreements with Civil Service unions and the system of control of public moneys, it is inevitably run by rule. The advantage of the separate existence of the administrative class is that it is small, its members are easily identified and watched, and it accepts that merit is the main if not the sole criterion for advancement. In 1963, there were 74,000 members of the executive class and 2,500 of the administrative class.

Finally, I would like to see a reasonable leaven of people brought in at all levels from outside. No one who served in the wartime Civil Service can forget the stimulus of working beside men of completely different formation, or how dull it seemed when they left.

So far I have been pouring people into the pipeline: how do we get them out? Fliers must have room to fly, and there is no point in creating a special career structure for them if they are then blocked. The first thing is to follow up what the Civil Service has been doing for the past decade: within the limits of the surprisingly flexible Superannuation Acts, it has been made constantly easier for people to leave early.

Next, there is the question of the civil servant's tenure. Should it be, as it is now, almost parsonlike once he has passed two years' probation, or should he be liable to be dismissed for comparative (as distinct from absolute) inefficiency? In principle, I believe that he should, but it is very much a last weapon.

There is another more contentious, but in my view more important, means by which promotion among fliers could be improved. The Civil Service prides itself, rightly, on promoting good men young and it is common practice to make a man permanent secretary in his mid-forties. There is a good reason for this. The job is extremely exacting; it involves large managerial authority; and it is expected of a permanent secretary that he shall be brim-full of ideas and innovations, a solver of difficulties, a stimulus to his Minister and not merely a brake. So far, not so very different from what is expected of a good managing director. But, unlike him, the permanent secretary is totally subordinate to his Minister. This combination of qualities demands great elasticity and is essentially a young man's job.

## EARLY RETIREMENT

So, in my view, the best reform in the top reaches would be to retire all deputy secretaries (who share the tribulations of the permanent secretaries to some extent) compulsorily after seven and a half years in that rank, unless they are promoted to permanent secretary; and all permanent secretaries after five years in that rank. Note I say, rank, not post; the rule would hardly help if it were evaded by switching men round.

What would one do with these prematurely retired civil servants? "Do you imply", said someone to whom I was expounding this thesis, "that the Civil Service should be run by young men and that industry should be run by elderly civil servants?" A fair question. Some, of course, will still have a bellyful of executive fire, and will require only release from Civil Service subserviency to give their best to commerce, industry and other executive fields (as some examples of early leavers show). Others will be past their executive best, but will have great experience and will not necessarily be bad value as part-time directors, members of committees and the like. One might ask what industry and other fields do with

top, he is more and more the servant of his minister. Ministers really do run their departments, if they are any good; and they look to their senior civil servants to act as their advisers. It is not easy for a permanent secretary to give first priority to his managerial responsibility when his minister wants him immediately to discuss a matter for answering in Cabinet or Parliament. In the past, this has tended to mean that some departments, so far as the permanent secretary has been concerned, have been almost self-managing. What lesson should one draw from this? Not, I think, that future permanent secretaries should spend more time with their departments and less with their ministers, nor that managerial responsibility should be withdrawn; but that they should have had adequate managerial education (as is *not* the case today) and experience (as usually is the case) to make a really professional job of delegation and control.

Most graduate entrants come from Oxbridge, but though this pattern was set in the days of Oxbridge supremacy, it is not due to any bias in the contemporary method of selection. Most men and women who are up to the standard required and like the idea of the Civil

Who can think it sensible to apply the same methods of management to the two? Fliers must be fairly chosen from the widest possible field, but thereafter they must be managed as arbitrarily as the needs of the state require. Late entries, transfers from all sources, special terms, all are needed; and, above all, quick promotion for the brilliant.

The first, quite minor, reform is mostly concerned with appearances. Everybody thinks the primary source of the present administrative class is direct entry graduates, with promotees brought in simply to fill gaps. This has long ceased to be so, and it should be made perfectly clear that the two primary sources of recruitment, by promotion or transfer from other branches of the civil service and by direct graduate entry, are wholly equivalent.

Second, the rituals of certification as an established civil servant, devised a century ago to prevent the abuse of the privilege of entry, should be made less solemn. They tend to frighten people away.

Next, I assume that the class of managerial fliers will be open, up to the top, to all suitable men from the scientific and professional branches.

aging executives?

I would hope to see three kinds of managerial training given to fliers (with whom alone I am here concerned: I do not imply that the training of the non-fliers is unimportant).

First, fairly soon after entry to the class of fliers, a very general course on management of one or two years, not too biased towards government problems.

Secondly, a wide extension of training exchanges with commerce, industry, local government and other administrations. This is already being done effectively, but not on a comprehensive scale.

Lastly, a continuation and expansion of existing facilities for sending civil servants of pronouncedly managerial tastes and capacities to senior institutions such as the Administrative Staff College and senior courses at business schools.

It remains slightly more doubtful whether a Civil Service Staff College should be set up. The idea is immediately attractive and may be inevitable if needs are to be met. But the more that Civil Service training, most of all in senior stages when civil servants have become thoroughly accustomed to service ways, can be mixed with the training of other people, the better.

Original pa'd on PF.47,496 vol.6, s.413z  
dated 12.5.67

Reference PF.604,861

TOP SECRET

582

D3/BP.5/1

HELD RS

Extract from report of interviews with Alister George Douglas WATSON (PF.47,496) in January 1967. WATSON, a Communist at Cambridge University from 1933-39, was a friend of Guy BURGESS (PF.604,529).

.....

..... He had known Eddie PLAYFAIR well: although not a Communist, he had certainly thought during the war that the Communists would eventually take over the whole of Europe. ....

.....

..... He used to go to London, inter alia, to attend meetings of the Cranium Club, a club for intellectuals from Cambridge and he thought Oxford, rather similar to the "Apostles" though not of such a high standard. It had been essentially a cultural club with "Bloomsbury connections" which had been started before the war by Roger QUIRK, and which had continued to hold meetings in restaurants during and after the war. He recalled that Eddie PLAYFAIR had been a member....

.....

Ext'd on 16.11.67 by D.1.Inv./a.b.

TOP SECRET

Glendon  
5.2.68

TOP SECRET

57a

Reference.....

PA in PF.604861

Original in PF.604582 (BLUNT) Vol. 10 serial 512a

Extract from Note of an Interview of Sir Anthony BLUNT at his flat in the Courtauld Institute on 27th April, 1966, by P.M. Wright (D.3)

.....

"19. Talking of PROCTOR led BLUNT to mention Eddie PLAYFAIR. I commented that I had also seen him, and did he think that PLAYFAIR was queer. He said yes, that he knew that he had been in the past, but that he did not know whether he was currently so. He rather thought not, since he got married."

.....

(sgd.) Peter M. Wright

D.3

2.5.66

Contrast first few lines of 42g also "p. 7" of 46a.

RP  
D.1/Inv  
5.5.66

W/1/5  
m

TOP SECRET

**TOP SECRET**

Reference.....

522

Ext. from an Interview with Dennis PROCTOR on 8th and 9th  
February, 1966 (1951: Contact of Guy BURGESS).

1. I visited Malaucene in the Vaucluse in Southern France on February 8th and 9th 1966. I went to interview Sir Dennis PROCTOR, who has been a close friend of Sir Anthony BLUNT for many years and was a close friend of Kim PHILBY and Guy BURGESS before they defected. PROCTOR recently retired from being P.U.S. in the Ministry of Power. I talked with him about his relationship with BURGESS and his circle from 9.30 p.m. on Tuesday evening until 4.30 a.m. on Wednesday morning. I have condensed much of what was said to bring out the salient points.

2. I opened our talk by making a speech about our present knowledge of the extent of the penetration achieved by the Russians of our security during the thirties. A major proportion of this was through the intellectual circle at Cambridge, which appeared to centre round PHILBY, BURGESS and MACLEAN. I said I was not engaged in a "MacCarthy witch-hunt". We did not wish to persecute people for what had happened long ago. But it was essential to discover what had happened in order to assess the damage and to make certain nobody who was involved was still active. I said that several people had talked freely about the part they had played and, as PROCTOR would know, there had been no headlines. I urged PROCTOR to talk freely to me about anything he knew about the affair.

.....

After he got into the Civil Service, he was in the habit of going back to Cambridge frequently and became very much one of the circle. The fact that he was an Apostle also brought him into contact with them all. There was also in the mid-thirties a London circle which stemmed from Cambridge. In this circle were such people as Eddie PLAYFAIR, Richard LLEWELLYN-DAVIES, Francis COOKE as well as Guy BURGESS. At this point, I asked PROCTOR again how he would describe his own politics of this period. With some reluctance, he said he had really always been a Marxist and still was. He said that his trouble was that he had never had enough courage to admit it publicly. He would have liked to have become a party member in order to acknowledge his faith but he had been frightened to do it because of his career. He then said that, if I ever put this to him officially, he would deny it! He was only telling me this to try and help me. I asked him what he meant by "being a Marxist". He said that he was either an agnostic or atheist - he was not certain which and that he believed that the teachings of Marx were fundamentally right. He believed in man's ability to control his fate.

.....

B



**TOP SECRET**

Reference.....

8. I asked PROCTOR to tell me about his and BURGESS's friends. PROCTOR said he would but he protested that his memory was bad and would I put names to him. I agreed that I would but I soon discovered that there was nothing wrong with PROCTOR's memory. He either commented on a given character or refused to do it, or he said categorically he did not know the man. His comments were:-

861  
Eddie PLAYFAIR PROCTOR always associated him with Richard LLEWELLYN-DAVIES. They lived together before the war with a man called Francis COOKE whom PROCTOR did not like. Francis COOKE's girl friend mixed up with a German who was shot in 1940. PROCTOR thinks COOKE married her later. PROCTOR says PLAYFAIR is a very close friend of his. Despite this, PROCTOR regards PLAYFAIR as very able but lacking the spark of genius. PROCTOR blackballed PLAYFAIR for the "Apostles" and still thinks he was right. PLAYFAIR was very left before the war but only intellectually convinced, not emotionally - unlikely to be a spy.

15. PROCTOR drove me to Avignon to catch the train for Paris. He left the door open for further discussions by saying that if he thought of anything he would write and make a lunch date when he was in London. His last remark was that our talks had been entirely "off the record" to try to help me. He would deny it if it were ever raised with him officially. I thanked him for his help and told him not to worry.

*Peter M. Wright*

D.3.

Peter M. Wright

22.2.66

D3/PK8 10/9.

TOP SECRET

Reference.....

P.A. in PF. 604,861. PLAYFAIR.  
Original in PF. 55,302. vol. 3. ser. 153a.

S/O

Extract from D.3./PMW Note on interview with Eric KESSLER (Contact of Guy Burgess), held in Geneva on 1.9.65., ment: PLAYFAIR.

.....

7. KESSLER said that, in the immediate pre-war years 1937-39, the circle of friends round BURGESS, in which he, KESSLER, moved included BLUNT, J. KNAP-PISHER, Peter HUTTON, Eddie PLAYFAIR, Andy REVAL, Peter SMOLLETT, and a man whose name he could not remember but was an art historian and later became head of the National Portrait Gallery.

.....

12. KESSLER thinks that BURGESS sometimes wondered whether KESSLER had been recruited by the Russians. He remembers one occasion early in the war in the Reform. He was having a drink with BURGESS, Eddie PLAYFAIR and Peter HUTTON. BURGESS said "If Eric were a spy, he would be a very good spy and we would never find out". KESSLER commented to me that this was a typical BURGESS oblique remark, fishing for reactions. On another occasion, because KESSLER was pleased that the Russians were now in the war on our side, BURGESS accused KESSLER of working for them.

.....

D.3.  
14.9.65.

Signed Peter M. Wright

BK/R.5.  
11.10.65.

TOP SECRET

R.P.  
20/10/65  
D3/BA  
19/10/65

Extract from Note for File/Interview Report

50c

Extract for File No. PF.604.861 Name PLAYFAIR, Eddie.

Original in File No. PF.604.025 Serial 74z Dated 21.6.65.

Date and Place of Interview/Meeting 21.6.65. Place unknown.

with (also give security context of person being interviewed)

(1951: Contact of Guy BURGESS (R.I.S. AGENT) since 1941)

Subject

Officer MR. P. WRIGHT. using @ of Section D3.

Extracted by PC Section R5 Date 1.7.70

W. Did you ever know Eddie PLAYFAIR?

B. Yes. Still do. Eddie PLAYFAIR was not on the bottle - that was one of his troubles.

(Laughter)

B. He was a respectable, as far as I know, progressive and liberal minded Civil Servant, who I should have thought was not to be connected with such things - I should think he had connections with such people, knew them, that sort of thing but -

W. He was a good friend of Guy's.

B. I should think he was a good friend of Guy's, yes... I wouldn't know, but I should have thought he was very honest and straight-laced - as far as politics were concerned. I don't know, but he never talked about anybody; but I would vouch for him on the whole.

W. Yes.

B. I mean I still see him about once a year, once every two years. He's like anyone else, like anyone else who's intelligent and bright -

W. Like us all in fact.

B. Like us all, yes (laughter).

I wouldn't have said Eddie PLAYFAIR was hardly socialist - he was left-wing Liberal at the most, and highly sceptical

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TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

Soc

Extract from ~~Note for File~~/Interview Report

Extract for File No. PF.604,861. Name PLAYFAIR, Eddie.

Original in File No. Serial Dated

Date and Place of Interview/Meeting

with (also give security context of person being interviewed)

Subject

Officer using @ of Section

Extracted by Section Date

B. negative figure. With that kind of thing. But perfectly  
(cont.) honourable.

\*Strike out inapplicable.

TOP SECRET

502.

NOTE FOR FILE.

L255-14  
LINK A  
COOKE  
RUBACK  
ROTHSCHILD  
WATSON  
REES  
CARACROSS  
PF 701776  
PF 605565  
PF 47496  
PF 604583  
PF 72493  
RFRKCY  
29.7.75

Ext'd to  
PF 642774  
Link A.

I interviewed Sir Edward PLAYFAIR in one of I.C.T.'s flats in Carlton Gardens on May 20th 1965. I had been instructed not to give PLAYFAIR any impression that we might suspect him of being a spy. I started off the interview by explaining that because of the discoveries we had made at the time of PHILBY's defection and since we were now interviewing all those who were friends of the PHILBY - BURGESS - MACLEAN circle. This was not a Macarthy witch hunt but it was very necessary to discover if there were any people who had been involved with the boys, who were now in sensitive positions. PLAYFAIR agreed that this was a reasonable thing to be doing but immediately said that he did not know of anybody. I asked him whether he had ever been approached to work either for the Comintern or for the Russians. He assured me he had not.

Ext'd to

2. I asked PLAYFAIR to tell me about his relationships with Guy BURGESS. He said that he had never liked him. He had met him at Cambridge. He was not certain whether Dennis PROCTOR or Victor ROTHSCCHILD had introduced him. PLAYFAIR had been a great friend of Julian BELL. He thought that the turning point in his politics had been about 1932. He, PLAYFAIR, had become very Left Wing and had begun to associate with the Left Wing and Marxist circle at Cambridge.

Ext'd to  
PF 604.604  
L.255-14  
LINK A  
COOKE.

After PLAYFAIR came to London in the mid thirties he shared a flat with Richard LLEWELLYN-DAVIES and Francis COOKE. It was in S. James and the years would be 1935-38. Richard was a Communist (not certain whether he was a Party Member) and Francis COOKE was a Marxist sympathiser and very keen on the Popular Front. This flat was a centre for Left Wing friends and BURGESS often used to come. PLAYFAIR got to see him more and more as the years went by. He had a great admiration for BURGESS's ability but never really liked him. PLAYFAIR said that the people he remembered coming to the S. James flat were Ann CLARK who was an overt Communist, Elizabeth WATSON who was a Marxist painter, Mary COSS another Communist, and very close to Francis COOKE. Roger QUIRK was also a great friend of theirs. The elder statesman among them was an architect called Tolick LUBETKIN. LUBETKIN came from Russia in the early twenties. He sympathised with the Soviet regime and had a great influence on them all. LUBETKIN formed the business firm of TECTON with Godfrey SAMUEL. LUBETKIN was the chief architect for Peterlee. PLAYFAIR vouched for LUBETKIN when he was naturalised. PLAYFAIR thought he married a Marxist girl called Margaret CHURCH.

SR - see  
62a

Ext'd to  
PF 642774  
18.6.71

Ext'd to  
PF 702335  
ROTHSCHILD  
WATSON  
REES  
CARACROSS  
PF 701776  
PF 605565  
PF 47496  
PF 604583  
PF 72493  
RFRKCY  
29.7.75

3. PLAYFAIR said that he found it difficult to recall names and asked me if I could give him some. I said that he had already mentioned some interesting names and would he like to discuss those first. His comments were as follows:

Dennis PROCTOR

Ext'd to  
PF. 604,547.

PLAYFAIR said that PROCTOR was retiring to France at the end of September. PROCTOR was a Harrovian who had been at Kings. Goldie DICKINSON had been a great friend of PROCTOR's and PROCTOR had been in love with him but PLAYFAIR did not think it had been a queer relationship. PLAYFAIR said that he could not recall that Dennis PROCTOR had ever been interested in politics but he always voted Left Wing and was devoted to his old Cambridge friends, particularly BURGESS and BLUNT. PROCTOR was an intellectual with strong emotions and views.

/PROCTOR . . .

Ext'd to  
PF 116  
22/3  
US/BA  
7.3.66

PROCTOR had left the Civil Service when he was having difficulties with Varda, his first wife. Varda's real name was Dorothy. She was always called Varda because her first husband was a painter called VARDA. PROCTOR had got involved in a divorce suit over Varda and had lost his job as Secretary to Baldwin. PROCTOR was invited to return to the Treasury after he had been away for about two years by Bridges. PLAYFAIR had every confidence in Dennis PROCTOR.

Richard LLEWELLYN-DAVIES

He came from a Trinity intellectual family. His mother was the mistress of Michael COLLINS and went to jail in the Easter Rising of 1916 in Ireland. LLEWELLYN-DAVIES was a great friend of George THOMSON and was much influenced by him. LLEWELLYN-DAVIES read engineering at Cambridge and afterwards became an architect. His first marriage was to Ann STEPHEN, a Communist. It collapsed before the war. Before the war LLEWELLYN-DAVIES was an active Communist/Marxist. PLAYFAIR did not see much of him in the war, but after the war he appeared to be non-political. Pat LLEWELLYN-DAVIES, his wife, is very dogmatic and absolutely straight Labour Party - very ambitious. Richard LLEWELLYN-DAVIES keeps out of politics despite the fact that he is a close friend of Harold Wilson's who asked him to become a Life Peer. At this point PLAYFAIR recalled that he had found the other day a copy of the Julian BELL Memorial Volume. There was a photograph in it of himself with other friends of Julian BELL. These were Richard LLEWELLYN-DAVIES, Anthony BLUNT, Geoffrey SYKES and Alister WATSON.

Extracts  
to PF 604, 604.

Victor ROTHSCHILD PF605565

PLAYFAIR has known him for years, but much better after the war, due to their association on the Agricultural Research Council. ROTHSCHILD is a man of honour. Tess ROTHSCHILD could not have been involved despite her close association with BURGESS to whom she was very loyal.

Ext'd to PF605565  
RFX7C4  
29.7.75

Anthony BLUNT

PLAYFAIR knew him well at Cambridge. He knows that BLUNT thinks him a bore and a fool. BLUNT blackballed PLAYFAIR for the Apostles. BLUNT was not Left Wing at Cambridge (!) PLAYFAIR thought it inconceivable that BLUNT could have been a spy. He liked the Establishment too much (I did not disillusion PLAYFAIR).

\* No. 16 was  
PROCTOR.

X  
Ext'd to PF642774  
18.6.71.

Francis COOKE

COOKE was from the Wirral district of Lancashire. He went up to Magdalene. PLAYFAIR got to know him through Mary COSS who married him for a few years. Afterwards COOKE became very fond of the wife of a dreadful man called ARNHEIM who was shot by the French for being a spy. The girl was completely innocent. PLAYFAIR had, with the help of Jennifer FISCHER-WILLIAMS who had been in the Home

L.255-14  
LINKA  
COOKE

/Office . . .

L.255-14 link  
COOKE

Ext'd to PF 6627  
L. 255-14  
1967

Office, gone to a lot of trouble to get the girl out of internment. Afterwards COOKE was affectionate to her but could be very cruel. COOKE had a chip on his shoulder. He was an essentially vulnerable person and very against authority. He was now Secretary of the Stock Exchange. PLAYFAIR remembered that COOKE used to have a picture of Stalin on his office wall. PLAYFAIR had not talked politics with COOKE for many years.

Jennifer HART née FISCHER-WILLIAMS

Ext'd to  
#.606, 650 She was certainly Left Wing before and during the war. She was Roger QUIRK's mistress before she started living with Herbert HART.

Alister WATSON #47496

- an Apostle. WATSON was brilliant at Cambridge, was much admired by BURGESS, was a friend of BLUNT and LLEWELLYN-DAVIES. WATSON married a girl called Susan HENDERSON who was very Left Wing. WATSON himself was interested in Marxist ideas. PLAYFAIR has lost touch with him. WATSON is 'unimportant in life'.

Ext'd to #47496  
RFK704 29.7.75

Ext'd to  
#.605, 670 Roger QUIRK

Paula QUIRK  
is actually  
nee WEBER

- a neurotic Wykehamist. QUIRK was an atheist but should have been a canon. QUIRK's wife is the daughter of SCHMIT. QUIRK probably was not a Communist but certainly sympathised. He had a chip on his shoulder due to his lack of success. He was not a significant person in the world.

John LEHMANN

Ext'd to  
#41,490

LEHMANN was just senior to PLAYFAIR at Eton. He was in love with David BABBINGTON-SMITH at Cambridge. He had a very unhappy queer relationship with him. LEHMANN was politically of the Austrian school. PLAYFAIR doubts whether he was ever a Communist Party member. You can tell everything about him from his written works.

David HUBBACK #701776

PLAYFAIR knows him a little, chiefly through Jennifer HART. Judy, Jennifer's sister is HUBBACK's wife. HUBBACK is a conventional Liberal in his politics.

Ext'd to #701776  
RFK704 29.7.75

Goronwy REES #604583

PLAYFAIR knew him very well, both before the war and after but he dropped him after the People's articles when REES was in Wales. PLAYFAIR considered those articles disgraceful and an unjustifiable attack by REES on his friends, particularly BLUNT. REES is a fundamentally weak man and vulnerable on many scores.

Ext'd to #604583  
RFK704 29.7.75

John CAIRNCROSS #72493

CAIRNCROSS has a chip on his shoulder. He was on the fringes of the circle of friends, probably Left Wing.

Ext'd to  
#72493  
RFK704  
29.7.75

/Alexander . . .

Alexander CAIRNCROSS Pf 702335

PLAYFAIR has no doubts about him. He has no neuroses and is very different from his brother.

Ext'd to  
Pf 702335  
CAIRNCROSS

Quentin BELL Pf 753166

- As far as PLAYFAIR knows, is straight Labour.

Ext'd to  
Pf 753166 BELL

Richard CHILVER

- a friend of PLAYFAIR's. A quite extraordinary man - frighteningly capable intellectually but very loyal. CHILVER adores women and is very charming to them but he puts men's backs up. Sally, his wife, who was born GRAVES, was very Left Wing in her youth but PLAYFAIR is certain that they are entirely reliable today. PLAYFAIR commented that CHILVER had left the Ministry of Defence at his own request. PLAYFAIR said finally "CHILVER had better be reliable".

Ext'd.  
Pf-606,558.

Richard CLARK - "Otto" Pf 69319

PLAYFAIR considers that he is not relevant to our problem. He does not associate CLARKE with politics. CLARKE is deeply interested in administration.

Ext'd to  
Pf 69319  
CLARKE

RPK704  
29.7.75

Harry LINTOTT

He is not a friend of PLAYFAIR's, although PLAYFAIR has known him for many years. PLAYFAIR says that LINTOTT knows the world associated with Guy BURGESS very well.

Noted in  
Pf 607,236  
LINTOTT.

RPK704  
29.7.75

4. I find it very difficult to sum up PLAYFAIR. I found him glib and apparently very shallow in his estimates of people. I find this odd taking into account PLAYFAIR's reputation in the Civil Service. I suspect that PLAYFAIR has been queer and I suspect also that he would not tell us if one of his close friends was involved. PLAYFAIR commented that after BURGESS went he discussed with his friends what their attitude should be. They decided that the best thing was to lie low and say nothing. I find some of his statements so naive as to be unbelievable. For instance, the statement that BLUNT was not Left Wing at Cambridge and that it was inconceivable that BLUNT could be a spy. Because of my terms of reference, I could not pursue the issue why BURGESS had not tried to recruit PLAYFAIR. I am not satisfied that BURGESS would not have had a try at him. If he did, either PLAYFAIR was recruited or he turned it down. I do not think that if it were the latter PLAYFAIR would tell us about it. However, I am not satisfied that PLAYFAIR was not recruited.

X1

HUBBARD  
Pf 70776  
Pf 605565  
Pf 47456  
Pf 604383  
Pf 72493  
ROBERTS  
WATSON  
REES  
CAIRNCROSS

*Peter O. Wright*

P.M. Wright.

D.3.

7th March 1966.



Reference.....PF.604,861.....

50d

Note for File

Reference serial 49a. I have rung his secretary, and am seeing Sir Edward PLAYFAIR at 10 o'clock on Thursday 20th May at Carlton Gardens.

*Pls R. E. - 15.7.65*

D.3.

Peter M. Wright

12.5.65

✓  
15.7.65

PF. 604861

D3.

D. R. refs.

Revised 10/5

12, THE VALE,  
LONDON, S.W. 3.

49<sup>a</sup>

10 MAY 1965

8th May 1965

-48a

My Dear Roger,

Many thanks for your letter of the 5th May. I shall be glad to give a couple of hours to Peter Wright, and I only hope I can be of use. I suggest that he should ring up my secretary at PUTney 7272. She will fix a suitable time with him. I suggest that we should meet on the top floor of 4 Carlton Gardens, which will be more convenient to him than coming out to Putney. ICT have an office there for the purpose of meeting people in central London, and we can have a room there where we shall be uninterrupted and undisturbed.

Yours ever

Eddie Thyfair

PF 15.203 / PF 12.505

XMAN 4671

48A

Tel: WHI.6789

5th May 1965.

About a year ago you were good enough to see one of my officers in connection with a specific case. I wonder if you could spare the time to see another one, Peter Wright, and help him in a rather more general delving into the past as part of the very necessary enquiries we are still pursuing? I cannot pretend that Peter Wright's talk with you is likely to be a brief one and I would hope you would be able to set aside a couple of hours, though I know this is a lot to ask of a very busy man. I hope too you could arrange to meet somewhere where you can talk freely, perhaps either in your office or at home. Peter Wright will come to see you wherever you suggest, but I am sure it is better not to have the talk in some such place as a club where one is tempted to use double talk which can be misunderstood.

If you could let me know that you are agreeable to seeing Wright he could then get on to your secretary to arrange a convenient time and place.

(Ms.note: 'This reads rather threateningly, like helping the police in their enquiries. I promise that we are not after you).

R. H. HOLLIS

Sir Edward Playfair, K.C.B.,  
12, The Vale, S.W.3.

Mr B 65  
5-5-65

TOP SECRET

Extract from Note for File re interview with Mrs. REES  
on 27th March, 1965 dated 2.4.65 in PF.604,583. Serial 378a.

Copies on PF.604,597

DG 21/4 PF.604,861 ✓ PF.604,643.

1114 PF.605,565

46B

.....

2. During this hour the following subjects were discussed.

i. Mrs. REES said that she was under the impression that we had never taken "The Society" in Cambridge seriously. I did not reveal any knowledge of this organisation, in the hope that she would tell me what she had learnt from Guy BURGESS. She said that it was a very secret Cambridge society which elected twelve of the most outstanding undergraduates each year as members, and that Guy had told her that during the thirties it had become very political. In Guy BURGESS' time, apart from Guy himself, Anthony BLUNT, Denis PROCTOR, Eddie PLAYFAIR and Victor ROTHSCHILD had all been members. There was also a very sinister character whom Guy seemed to respect, called Alan HODGKIN, who is the husband of Dorothy HODGKIN, the Nobel Prize winner. Guy certainly gave her the impression that in his day the Society (i.e. The Apostles) was Communist and Marxist. She also mentioned Tommy HARRIS but was not certain whether he was an Apostle or not.

not Eddie -  
see p. 2 of 592.

.....

TOP SECRET

10 5 65  
10 5 65  
26-4-65

TOP SECRET

## EXTRACT

46ab

Extract for File No.: PF 604861 Name: PLAYFAIR  
 Original in File No.:\* PF 604583 REES Vol.: 5 Serial: 366c Receipt Date: 19.3.65  
 Original from: Interview transcript Under Ref: D3/PMW Dated: 19.3.65  
 Extracted on: 29.7.75 by: RP Section: K7C4

Extract from page 16 of the transcript of an Interview with  
 Goronwy REES, friend of Guy BURGESS, at Flat 3, South Audley  
 Street on 19.3.65 by D3/PM Wright and D3/JM Patrick

.....

*Free error for Eddie*

PW Well, now, to Maurice PLAYFAIR.

GR PLAYFAIR I simply suspect on the grounds that he was for  
 a time a great friend of Anthony's and a great friend of  
 Guy's. That was the only ground, I think, or suspicion  
 I ever had about him.

PW Did you meet him in their company so to speak?

GR Er - did I know him through Guy - or - I met him through  
 going to Cambridge - no, through Guy only; the sole reason  
 why I ever saw him was through Guy, yes.

PW Yes.

GR And, again, he was never particularly left wing - and,  
 again, now - I mean, if I were asked to ....

.....

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46a

Extract for PF 604,861 - PLAYFAIR

Original at serial 449z in PF 604,582 - BLUNT

Extract from Transcription of Interview between A.S. Martin, P.M. Wright and Sir Anthony BLUNT on Thursday, 18th March, 1965.

.....

W. Does the name ARNHEIM mean anything to you ? Going back to 1940 - 1941 ?

B. Can you give me a lead ?

W. ARNHEIM himself was shot by the - no, that's not true - he was going to be shot by the French in Tunisia for being a German spy. There are fairly substantial grounds for thinking that in actual fact he was a Russian spy and the French got on the wrong beam. He went to Tunisia obviously on an espionage brief - in '40 - but why I'm asking you is that it was quite an issue in the office '41 and '42-ish over his wife who was an 18b case and I just wondered whether the Russians every displayed any interest.

B. No. Not the least that I can remember.

W. ARNHEIM was German of Dutch nationality - he'd acquired Dutch nationality and he was here, in this country for many years - until he went to Tunisia, in fact, and got caught. He was working for a peculiar firm in the city called (?) which was linked with /up

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21.4.65  
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WOODRAN

- W. con. a Dutch firm. There are very good reasons for believing it to be a Russian cover organisation. He had a very peculiar lot of contacts in this country - people like Eddie PLAYFAIR - I believe you and Arthur talked quite a lot about Eddie. An enigma as far as we are concerned and it makes one wonder - the name coming up again -
- B. And there is no obviously valid explanation. I mean it wasn't concerned with something - oh, of course Eddie wasn't important
- W. Eddie at the Treasury.
- B. All I can say about Eddie - it's never occurred to me anything about Eddie but from his whole position - when did he go - no, of course he came down from Cambridge before the Communist wave. He was an exact contemporary of mine, in fact he came down in '29 or might have been a year later but I think in fact - no, anyhow well before '34. Then of course he was as - if I say die-hard, I mean more generally die-hard than politically die-hard, frightfully sort of - almost combined Etonian Wykamist reactionist.
- W. He seems to have been in the '30s a great pal of John LEHMAN - and there is evidence that he was a queer then - you doubted this when we discussed this -
- B. Yes - well, not in any specific sense - I mean I've always imagined Eddie was practically sexless.
- W. Yes. (Laughter)
- B. But all his friends were queer or nearly all I've not the slightest doubt but there again you see it was almost reprehensible not to be queer at that date - I do know people who were totally normal who found it necessary to pretend to be queer to be in the intellectual swim at that particular - in the early part particularly. Er, I should never have thought of him as a very close friend of Guy. They presumably - they were contemporaries at Eton ?
- W. Yes, they were indeed and -
- B. Both came out presumably simultaneously
- W. Yes, Quentin BELL was another person who seems to have been an associate
- B. Quentin ?
- W. Yes, Quentin not Julian.
- B. No Julian ? Julian was a very close friend of his, very close and -
- W. I realise that - I was mentioning -
- B. Quentin, yes I didn't know - as a matter of fact I hardly knew Quentin but I've got to know him much more in the last few years professionally - I mean I met him with Julian.
- W. There's a very peculiar story I might tell you and that is that Eddie in the early '30s, after a visit to Germany introduced John LEHMAN to a Hitler Jugend boyfriend. Because John was going to Germany -
- B. - gave him an introduction in Germany ?

/W. . . .

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- W. - in Germany. We now know this man was a Communist and involved in the game.
- B. Yes.
- W. Both (?) or not, we don't know. Its an odd story
- B. It's very odd because I can't see Eddie so to speak attempting the job - on the sexual level it doesn't work out.
- W. Well, the evidence is pretty solid.
- B. Oh, you mean of the thing having happened.
- W. Yes. Now, coming round keeping on the Eddie plane for a moment I meant ARNHEIM too there's a very curious thing in that Eddie was somehow roped in to pleading to get Mrs. ARNHEIM released from internment over the 18b thing and we know that she was very interested in - he was very interested, he went and got Jenifer FISCHER-WILLIAMS as she was then, aid in this matter - not officially - you see it's all pretty odd isn't it? This is why I'm still plugging Eddie at you and are you - is there a clue anywhere. I mean, one would judge Eddie, I think, without all these oddities exactly as you've judged him and you know I'm just trying to probe to make certain that there's nothing in your memory. Guy thought he was a - Guy had admiration for his brain.
- B. Yes, great admiration for his brain but not I think - well I think he regarded him as a rather inhuman kind of machine.
- W. He loves machines -
- B. Eddie? Yes, I remember his telling me that he'd got the War Office, I'm quite certain that one of the very powerful influences in Eddie's life was Julian. Julian was, as far as I know, never a Communist and as you no doubt know the reason he joined - it as the Friends Ambulance wasn't it? - the reason he did that was in order not to offend his mother and indeed probably the whole of the Bloomsbury group by joining something both military and - well it was military and he was - I didn't see a great deal of him after he came back, in fact I saw very little of him after he came back from China but it may well be that he got really much more totally left-wing then than he had been and perhaps than I realised and I should say that he was one of the very few people who could have swayed Eddie and I think he might have had the same sort of effect on Eddie that John CORNFORD had on so many people and that Julian's death - I'm speculating entirely - might have had a terrific effect on him and possibly swayed him. Again I wouldn't - I should regard Eddie as pretty impenetrable -
- W. Yes, oh yes absolutely.
- B. - and terribly clever - I mean if he put on an act it would be superb.
- W. Oh yes, he would be completely professional about it (Pause)  
Did Dennis PROCTOR know Eddie?
- B. Oh yes, very well, frightfully well -
- W. In the Treasury?

/B. . . .

THIS IS A COPY  
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958 *September 2022*

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- B. In the Treasury, yes and also - well both - they must have known each other at King's and in fact I know till - indeed they may still - they used till quite recently have a regular arrangement that they met for lunch at the Reform once a week, absolutely regularly and something that I know they attached great importance to because I remember it was the one engagement that Dennis would never break - "No, sorry, it can't be Thursday because that's my day for lunching with Eddie". Oh, by the way, yes, I meant to tell you - not relevant to this but Dennis, whom I know very well indeed, one of the people I admire, he came to dinner the other night and - I think we were alone - no, that's right Barbara was there and after dinner Dennis said "Look can I have a word with you?" and so John and Barbara went into the other room and Eddie - Dennis and I stayed talking in the kitchen and he said "I must ask you something about Guy because we had someone from - I imagine from the office or at any rate from - talking officially on security at the Ministry of Ag. to a very small group - I got the impression just Dennis and a few top level people and in the course of it this chap said that Guy - talking about how long these things go on - that Guy was recruited as an agent at Cambridge and was recruited by James KLUGMAN, so rightly or wrongly I said "Well that first is true, the second isn't true" and Dennis - this was really - I've not the slightest doubt this was genuine - this absolutely shattered Dennis. I know Dennis well enough to know he was not acting -
- W. Not acting -
- B. He didn't he then incidentally said to me "Well this must be awful for you, when did you first come to know" and I said "I'm sorry I can't carry on this conversation" but I then - I did say "Well, personally I think this makes sense of Guy's life, otherwise it's absolute nonsense" and Dennis said "Well, yes I suppose you're right but it simply makes him out to be a totally different person from what I imagined"
- W. Yes, that's very good.
- B. It's very good, yes and I'm fairly certain this was the case and that he was really - so to speak he probably hadn't quite believed it when he was told it officially but getting it confirmed I think he did believe it and I'm quite certain that he really was going through a complicated process of adjustment and if he'd been in on the game he would have - this would have all gone through - he would have worked this out even if he didn't know before, he would have sorted this out long long ago.
- W. Good.
- B. But Eddie? I wouldn't - I mean Eddie -
- W. (?) when they're going to talk only got it wrong it wasn't me I wouldn't have dared -
- B. Dennis was rather annoyed "James KLUGMAN -who the hell's James KLUGMAN, I've never heard of him". So I explained, I even told him that I remembered hearing that the Party (?) had decided not to get him elected member of the Apostles because it was already sufficiently (finished?) - but Dennis you see - er - Dennis's view is rather simple that if someone wasn't an Apostle then they weren't important it was almost as simple as that - but I hope I didn't disclose -
- W. Oh no, not a breach of security - no mm -

/B. . . .

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- B. But Dennis - er - they are absolutely opposite - Dennis does really blurt out - er - everything that comes into his mind - as far as I have (?) Eddie I should have said never let anything out that he didn't mean to - let out exactly in that way and at exactly that moment. Eddie then went down - and then worked for the Civil Service exams and straight into the Civil Service/is that right ? / - no gap -
- W. No - there is no gap there
- B. And then passed out top
- W. Yes - no he had always been absolutely outstanding
- B. Yes
- W. In that sort of way
- B. And not eccentric like Dennis
- W. No

.....

- W. Coming back to what we were talking of before Arthur came about Eddie PLAYFAIR - does the OGPU Club mean anything to you ? No ? - well, the OGPU Club is a Civil Service club - a right-wing one - and they call it the OGPU Club - but we do know that certain - left-wing people are told - in the Civil Service - are told to join these clean clubs - I just wondered whether -
- B. No I've never come across that - no, I have actually very few contacts with the Civil Service.
- W. Again - needless to say Eddie PLAYFAIR was a member - (all speaking)
- B. Did you say was ?
- W. Yes -
- B. Of course -
- W. Also Jenifer HART - I thought I would see
- B. Never heard of it
- W. Guy never talked about it -
- B. Not, not to my memory - and I think - er - for some for some extraordinary - I think it would have stuck -

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.....

W Roger QUIRK - you know him?

B Well, in this context not at all. Didn't he die recently?

W Yes.

B I knew him faintly - he was at King's? Yes, and - Wykehamist? I would think. A friend of Eddie's I should have said and a contemporary - contemporary of Eddie's and mine. I've never thought of him in this kind of context at all - I mean I knew him as a rather pedantic historian or whatever it was - then a Civil Servant and I've lost sight of him for a long time - member of the Reform?

TOP SECRET

Extract from Transcription of an Interview between D.1/A.S. Martin, D.3/P.M. Wright and Sir Anthony BLUNT on 11th February 1965.

B ..... Eddy PLAYFAIR we've talked about haven't we?

M Yes.

W You've got no further views on him?

B No. It seems to me inconceivable that there's anything there.

W Did he know Guy well or -

B Oh, very well, yes. They weren't - I say he knew him very well - they weren't really close friends in the way that Guy and Dennis PROCTOR were and Dennis PROCTOR and Eddy but Guy and Eddy never quite hit it off - they had totally different mentalities but they must have met a great deal at the time and I can easily imagine that Guy might have led Eddy on - Eddy might easily have been an unconscious source for Guy, in fact I'm sure must have been because he was then what - Treasury, wasn't he, and I'm sure that Guy would have had long conversations with him about politics - the Treasury or whatever it was but Eddy would have been probably fairly open with him. Eddy was rather curious in this - in this very curious Cambridge context - Eddy wasn't an Apostle but always thought he ought to have been and was very much attached to anyone who was an Apostle and would have behaved - between Apostles one sort of spilt all the beans and Eddy might in a complicated way have done the same thing - I don't want to accuse Eddy of anything but I can imagine that Eddy might be rather indiscreet to Guy with no evil intention at all but he would have regarded some - to Dennis PROCTOR I'm sure he would have said absolutely anything - but then they were both Civil Servants so it would be rather different but Eddy would have talked, I think, very openly to Guy and after all did know a great deal.

W He's a fascinating person I think - Eddy.

B Yes. I never - I had slightly the same inhibitions about him as Guy had. You know him well?

W Not well, no.

B Brilliantly clever -

W I agree with you he's too -

B - almost too perfect. Do you know Dennis PROCTOR?

W I've only met him once.

B They're so different - I mean one is the perfect machine -

W Dennis PROCTOR lived for about four years about five miles from me - I never realised it I must have travelled on the same -

B Oh really, what in Essex?

W (?) not realised it. But Eddy and Dennis were pretty good friends, were they?

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21/4/65

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- 29 -

- B Eddy and Dennis were very good friends and used - indeed I daresay still have sort of regular arrangements - they'd meet for lunch every Wednesday or whatever it is and I imagine particularly now Dennis is back in the Civil Service - I imagine they probably talk shop.
- W Did Eddy have friends in the intelligence world, do you know?
- B Not that I know of. You mean in sort of '5' and '6'? No, I should have thought not. I mean I can't off-hand remember anyone else in '5' who knew him particularly well. No, I should have thought he was - he is indeed such a - well, of course he's no longer a Civil Servant, no
- W No, he's I.C.T. now - computers.
- B I.C.T. But he was such a correct Civil Servant that I should have thought he -
- W - wouldn't like -
- B Well no, would have been rather fascinated by them and thought it his business not to hobnob too much but I don't think of him as knowing - I'm sure that he must have met Guy Liddell and I daresay Dick for all I know in this kind of circle but I don't think he knew them at all well. Strange character.
- .....

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*D3/RAH  
2/w*

**EXTRACT**

*44*

Extract for File No.: P.F. 604,861. Name: PLAYFAIR.

Original in File No. \* L. 420-2434. Vol.: ..... Serial: 362. Receipt Date: 24.9.64.

Original from A.4. Return of Directors. Under Ref.: ..... Dated: 10.9.64.

Extracted on: 26.10.64. by: WA. Section: R4.

Ext. from Return of Directors Re International Computer & Tabulators Ltd.,  
(Firm vetted for Government Contracts). Serial 96056. Date of Registration  
30.12.07. Registered Office, 17 Old Park Lane, London, W.1. Secretary,  
David Christopher Laborde MARWOOD, 50 Ridgeway Crescent, Tonbridge, KENT.

Latest Return of Directors dated: 20.2.64.

.....

\*If the original is in the file of an individual include the name of the file owner.

<u>Name.</u>	<u>Nationality.</u>	<u>Address and Occupation.</u>
Sir Edward Wilder PLAYFAIR, K.C.B. born 17.5.1909.	British.	Brewery House, Stansted, ESSEX 'Chairman'.

.....

*20  
225 D3/RAH  
29/10/64*

43a

"PROPERTY NEWS" by William Roland

Extract from article in "Evening Standard" of 10.9.64 re depreciation of value of houses in area of proposed Stansted Airport, Essex ment PLAYFAIR

**Going to Chelsea**

Leaving Stansted, but in no way because of the airport scare, are Sir Edward and Lady Playfair.

The boss of International Computers and Tabulators has sold Brewery House, dating from various periods, for which £9000 was asked.

Some of its large garden is to be auctioned off separately with planning permission for six

detached houses, the agents being Edwin Watson and Son and Hampton and Sons.

The Playfairs have bought a house in The Vale, Chelsea. Says Lady Playfair: "My husband's firm is moving from Park Lane to Putney. It would be too difficult to travel to Putney from here."

✓ x  
2025

DJ/SAN  
15/9/64

NOTE FOR FILECharles L. MORGAN (See serial 7b )

I asked Mr. Flaxman/F.2. to obtain such information as he could from his Admiralty contact. He informed me on 21.7.64 that he had obtained the following information, which is all that remains on record in the Admiralty.

MORGAN, Charles Langbridge

Born: 22.1.94

3.8.42: Joined D.N.I.

21.12.44: Left D.N.I.

Address in this period: 16 Campden Hill Square, W.8.

2. Flaxman's Admiralty contact explained that Charles MORGAN, "like one or two other brilliant chaps of that kind", was employed by the Admiralty during the war as a temporary unpaid clerk. These persons were used in an "advisory capacity". Flaxman has no reason to think that Charles MORGAN, or others in this category, would ever have been vetted.

3. The only other items of information about Charles MORGAN in Admiralty records consist of:-

- (a) an extract from the "Times" of 30.10.44 relating that Charles MORGAN had recently been to Paris to give a reading of his works.
- (b) the fact that Charles MORGAN rode a motor cycle and had an accident (no details apparently available).

23rd July, 1964

*R. A. Henley*  
R. A. Henley

D.3.



Reference.....

422

Copy of letter received from Sir Edward PLAYFAIR  
on 22.7.64 re Kemball JOHNSTON further to his  
letter received on 18.6.64

ORIGINAL on PF. 604,711 (JOHNSTON)

---

Stansted 3368

Brewery House,

Stansted,

Essex.

19th July, 1964.

Dear Henley,

I had a word with Carnwath about our friend.  
Bar a brief casual meeting with him a little time ago  
he says that he has not known him for years; and I  
should gather that he knew him less well than I did,  
which is not saying much. So I am afraid that he  
would not be much use to you.

Sorry that I started this false hare.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgnd) E. W. PLAYFAIR.

---

Envelope Addressed To:

R. A. Henely, Esq., Room o55, Old War Office Building,  
Ministry of Defence, Whitehall,  
LONDON, S.W.1.

2/20/64  
D/L/S  
20/1/64

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Extract for PF 604,861 - PLAYFAIR  
Original in PF 604,582 - BLUNT

Extract from Transcription of Interview between D.1/A.S. Martin  
and Sir Anthony BLUNT on Sunday, 12th July, 1964.

429

M Eddie PLAYFAIR. Sir Edward PLAYFAIR.

B Whom I knew well at Cambridge but have seen much less since, but I should have thought - straight, successful Civil servant.

M Certainly successful.

B Certainly successful, yes. I should never have thought any - well, I suppose he's sort of Liberal tendencies, hasn't he?

M What do you remember at Cambridge? Well, I suppose the first thing to get out of the way is, was he a queer?

B Not - I think the correct answer to that is "no". He was certainly not practising. He was very friendly with the queers and - played - well, I suppose the answer was "repressed" probably, but I'm pretty certain not practising at all - but didn't, in fact, get married until rather late in life, or relatively rather late in life.

M You say no left wing tendencies or not moving in - whatever the cliché is, but -

B Reform Club, Guy - -

M Yes. How sure are you about this? I think you are wrong.

B I should - erm - I should have been sure in the sense that although he - I should have thought he enjoyed meeting people of all political complexions. I think he is a man of immense curiosity.

M Yes, he's certainly a very fine brain, I think. He was a contemporary of Kemball's, both at Eton and at, he was at King's.

B Yes. Did he in fact know him at all well?

M Certainly at school they did, at Eton - I'm not sure thereafter.

B I don't associate -

M I didn't get anything out of Kemball on this - I didn't press it. But your knowledge of him at Cambridge?

B My knowledge of him at Cambridge - which was, of course, in the pre-political days, so to speak - was of, I frankly didn't like Eddie very much then, I liked him much more since. I knew him mainly through Julian BELL who of course was - yes. Of whom he was a very, very close friend indeed; I doubt if he shared his views - doubt it very much. And Eddie was er - well he's a pedant. He's a man of immense learning and a very good brain of a slightly unimaginative kind. And I never was

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DIV 11/13/64

comfortable with him - Julian I knew very well indeed, was devoted to, who was a warm imaginative person - and Eddie was a little bit sour and difficult and tiresome. Bur enormously learned, and one could have guessed - I don't say I did, but it would have been quite an easy guess - that he would pass in, as I think he did, top in the Civil Service exam. He was perfectly well organised, he got all his facts marshalled, he devoted his time to collecting information - sometimes maliciously - but really, a real Civil Service mind already at that date.

M Well, how did he get into Guy's set?

B (Pause) I suppose either through me, or probably just through the Reform Club. Or possibly through Dennis - you see, er - Dennis PROCTOR. They've always been very great friends. And I should guess - Guy knew Dennis far better than he knew Eddie - I mean he was a very close friend of Dennis; and his relations with Eddie I should have thought were - well much more just meeting and having a political gossip, or indeed a literary gossip or any other kind of gossip, in the Reform. And I should think it was just - you see Eddie would have gone down from Cambridge before Guy came up - Eddie was my contemporary and would have gone down in '29 unless he stayed on for an extra year - anyhow Guy was .....(?) ..... so that they wouldn't have known each other and I should say that they would have met in the Reform - you see I was a member of the Reform then too - and we were all meeting each other then so to speak. And whether it was through Dennis or me I simply don't know - nor would it make much odds.

M Another possible link is John LEHMANN.

B Is he - now he and Eddie were contemporaries - but they weren't close friends were they?

M Not? I thought they were.

B Well, I should have thought they would have disliked each other so much. At Cambridge?

M And at Eton.

B Eton I shouldn't know about. Cambridge - (pause) I don't associate them with each other.

M You don't.

*Proctor - Proctor  
blacklisted  
Photostat  
H.M.S.O.*

B John was an exact contemporary of mine, wasn't he? Yes. No I don't. However, they were different colleges - that wouldn't prove anything. Then I didn't know John LIEBMAN until - I mean I knew him, but I didn't know him at all well until fairly late his third or fourth year. Mainly through - he became very much entangled with Michael REDGRAVE, who I suppose was junior to him, and I knew Michael very well and had in fact never liked John at all - still don't. But he's a possible link. Is he still a Communist? (Pause) Or indeed, was he ever?

M I was going to say - I don't think that he ever was.

B No, well I wouldn't swear to it at all. I mean I think it's very unlikely that he ever actually had a card.

M Mm. So would I. Well, from my point of view John LIEBMAN is nothing like as great a worry as Eddie PLAYFAIR.

B No, no. I'm sure. Yes. I couldn't - I mean nothing that occurs to me would make me think that -

M Guy has never said anything which would throw any light on his view of PLAYFAIR?

B I mean from all he's said I'm absolutely certain he thought him absolutely straight - quite certain. And again - if Guy had known, I'm pretty certain it would have - I don't say he would have told me but something would have leaked.

SWITCHED OFF

B I can't conceive how they could ever have been.

M No. Well, I've no reason to suppose that David FOOTMAN has leaked - we're on the look-out for it but -

B No. No, I was only taking a gloomy view.

M Yes. Well going to the paper - there's really nothing more that you can?

B I'll go through - I'll rack my brain, but I can't think -

M But at any rate - there's nothing you know.

B Nothing I know and nothing, er nothing - I'm sure if Guy had said anything that even made me suspect, that I should remember it because it would have been so peculiar to me.

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- M You would have been surprised you mean?
- B I should have been so surprised that I think it would certainly have stuck.
- M Yes. And it really hadn't occurred to you that he was - well, he was younger at any rate - quite a long way to the Left?
- B No. But was he? I mean he had Left friends.
- M I mean you know what our records are. Reading the files I would say yes.
- B Really. Simply, from his friends? Or from his - expressions of opinion?
- M Well, you know the sort of things we pick up. There are certainly quite strong clues suggesting it.
- B No, that I should never have thought. If you said that he did have a lot of left wing friends, well the answer is obviously yes, but the other (whispering) I should never . . . I suppose the answer is that I probably never talked politics with him.
- M You say he had a lot of left wing friends. Well, I suppose you would reach the conclusion that he didn't share their views because he had a lot of other friends who were not. Is that the case?
- B (Long pause for thought) Then I suppose this is just supposition. I think I'd always imagined him as moving er, a good deal in, you know - official - Treasury circles, and so on, but perhaps he didn't outside business hours. I suppose I just don't know that. You see I've been - I've never been into Eddie's house or home or flat - I've only -
- M Have you met his wife?
- B I have, I think, once. Is she Swedish? - Danish, Swedish?, isn't she?
- M She's a doctor, isn't she?
- B She's a doctor, yes, or perhaps she isn't, I had an idea she was Danish - she is certainly a doctor or psychiatrist, one or the other. I had a sort of idea that she was a Scandinavian.
- M I don't know her name, do you?
- B No. I must have known it, but I can't remember it.
- M As you say they did marry fairly late, quite recently.
- B And have got two or three children, haven't they

*- when*

*According to 35a  
he married when  
he was 32 -  
not so very late!*

TOP SECRET

M I think they have, yes.

B I can't think when I last - I never see Eddie now. It was - that I think is mainly because -

M You know he left the Civil Service?

B I did. I'd even forgotten that and is now in industry or? Yes I'd forgotten that.

M On the computer(?)

B I didn't - - I don't think I knew what. Yes, of course I had heard. Well isn't that in itself?

M I don't know. I think the answer was that he - - there is no doubt that his career in the Civil Service was really brilliant.

B He ended up at the War Office, didn't he?

M He was P.U.S. War Office at the end, yes. But most of his career was at the Treasury, and it was a brilliant career and it would be perfectly reasonable to suppose that he left because he'd got as far as he could.

B Yes, and could make more money this way - and more leisure -

M And get more satisfaction out of it.

B I remember meeting him - it must be almost the last time - fairly soon after he'd gone to the War Office and saying "really Eddie it seems a most peculiar place for you to be - it doesn't seem to be your normal line", and Eddie said "Well, you know I've always loved this -" now I come to think of it this throws a light - I've always liked very elaborate machines, and the Army is the most elaborate machine I've ever been in charge of".

M Well, he's in charge of an even more elaborate one now.

B More elaborate one now, yes.

M I would think he's a very, very brilliant man.

B But it's a strangely limited - I mean he does almost totally lack imagination I think. Very curious kind of mind. It isn't merely a marvellous memory and so on - it's obviously a great power for marshalling facts and analysing, but I daresay assessing. But he's completely the opposite to Dennis, who is - um, there's something Dennis said the other day that I had a sort of vague impression that they were slightly drifting, because they used to be very close, they used to lunch -

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M Dennis PROCTOR and Eddie?

B Yes. They used to have an absolutely regular, as it might be a Friday, lunch date before. It may merely be that now Eddie's moved into a different life - into a different field - they don't meet so much, but I felt it was a little more than that, but I can't now remember what he said.

M We talked about Dennis PROCTOR didn't we?

B We did, yes.

M And you were convinced that he was a perfectly straightforward Socialist?

B Yes.

M Well, obviously he was further than that when he was younger, but -

B At what stage was he further than that - Spanish Civil War?

M Yes, in the middle thirties I think he was - again I don't know.

B But never anywhere near being a Communist?

M Well, I don't know. I mean he's always been a worry.

B Has he?

M But to you, that doesn't make sense?

B It doesn't make - no. But again, it may be, as I say, this element of vanity that if he was I'm sure I should know. He is a person who wears his heart on his sleeve to an extraordinary degree, I mean exactly the opposite to Eddie.

M Yes, I know Dick White knew Dennis PROCTOR and thought a lot of him.

B He did, yes, yes. A most admirable person. I've never understood how he stuck in the Civil Service for as long as he did. He seemed to me the opposite of a Civil Servant. He is utterly intransigent. Has a very bad temper and drinks. And when he gets into an argument he can be absolutely flaming. Well, when I say "drinks" - when he gets going of an evening. (Pause)

M What did Guy think of Eddie PLAYFAIR? I mean did he ever - I mean you say he enjoyed talking to him.

B I think, whereas he had a profound admiration for Dennis, a really, really great admiration for him, I should say his view of Eddie was more or less like mine - I mean very, very clever indeed, but I

TOP SECRET

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- 27 -

Shouldn't have thought he thought of Eddie with great affection.

(Pause) One tends to think of Eddie as a - well, the machine comes back - I mean as a super-efficient machine.

.....

TOP SECRET



COPY of letter from Sir Edward PLAYFAIR to R. A. Henley/D.4.  
as a result of their meeting re Kemball JOHNSTON<sup>9</sup>

ORIGINAL on PF. 604,711 (JOHNSTON) REC'D 18.6.64

4/a

Stansted 3368

Brewery House,

Stansted,

Essex.

17th June, 1964.

Dear Henley,

The address I promised you is P. E. Fairbairn, The Manor House, Burghfield, Reading, Berks. Telephone: Burghfield Common 204. He was in the same year as us in College at Eton and went up to Cambridge, also to Trinity. He lived at or near Henham when I came here in 1950, but left soon after.

The other name is A. H. Carnwath, Old Vicarage, Ugley, Bishop's Stortford, Herts. Telephone: Rickling 283. Also obtainable at Barings. I will have a word with him, as agreed, when I come back from India.

I suggest that you should not answer this letter, as my secretary has instructions to open all my letters while I am away.

Yours sincerely,

(SGND) EDDIE PLAYFAIR.

R. A. Henley, Esq., M.B.E.,  
Room 055,  
Old War Office Building,  
Ministry of Defence, S.W.1.

For further information see P.F. 604,711.

Edmond  
2004  
2566

NOTE FOR FILE

412

K. F. A. JOHNSTONInterview with Sir Edward PLAYFAIRon 17th June, 1964R. A. Hawley  
- Tony Hawley

I went to see Sir Edward PLAYFAIR at 10.30 a.m. on 17th June, 1964 in his office at International Computers and Tabulators Ltd., of which he is Chairman, at 17 Old Park Lane. This was as a result of the conversation which [redacted] had had with Sir Edward (see note at 273a). It had proved incorrect that Sir Edward was leaving for India on 17th June. His departure was on 18th June.

2. I was somewhat hesitant about taking up Sir Edward's time immediately before his departure and suggested that, unless he had anything particularly urgent in mind, I should visit him again on his return. He said that he had made his dispositions for his departure and was quite happy to have a discussion now. He was extremely affable and relaxed, and expressed his appreciation when I said that I had been asked by Sir Roger Hollis to convey his regards - which he reciprocated at the end of my visit.

3. I apologised for the fact that he had received an indirect approach about Kamball JOHNSTON, and explained that we had not been aware that [redacted] was going to speak to him. I said that I thought that he might have formed the impression that what was, in fact, a very delicate enquiry was being rather loosely handled. He said that he quite appreciated its delicacy and felt sure that [redacted] had only mentioned the subject to him because he had known him in his [redacted]

[redacted] would, therefore, have realised that he could speak to him with confidence.

4. I told PLAYFAIR that JOHNSTON had inevitably been someone whom we had for some years had at the back of our minds, partly because of his close, but official connection with BURGESS during the war, and partly because of the wide spread impression which he had given - also during the war and during his service in my office - of holding Marxist views. PLAYFAIR remarked that he had not realised that JOHNSTON had been in the Security Service

/during the .....

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2/5/65

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ACT 1958 SEPTEMBER 2022

during the war. I added that certain other points had more recently come to light, and that I had myself interviewed JOHNSTON to ask his explanation of them. It was to some extent because of what had transpired at this interview that we were now making some further enquiries regarding JOHNSTON's past associations and views. I told him that JOHNSTON had shown himself sensitive to several points raised during the interview and that it had, in particular, left a clear impression that the widely held belief that JOHNSTON was a Marxist, or a Communist, - at any rate at one time - was correct.

5. PLAYFAIR said that he doubted if he had ever known JOHNSTON well enough to be able to say at all categorically whether he was a Communist or not. His impression was that JOHNSTON's views were certainly to the left, but he would not have classified him as a Communist or a Marxist. He agreed that he knew of JOHNSTON's habit of expressing himself somewhat intemperately and in ~~XX~~ outspoken and critical terms. He agreed that JOHNSTON could be described as a "debunker" and frequently gave the impression of being cynical in his outlook. He thought that these characteristics might have caused JOHNSTON's left-wing views to be interpreted as being more extreme than they were, but he conceded that JOHNSTON might have struck this attitude in order to conceal, consciously or unconsciously, convictions which were in fact deeply held and which might have been Marxist or Communist.

6. Taking up my mention of BURGESS, PLAYFAIR said that he, of course, knew BURGESS well. BURGESS, he said, was someone of whom "we" were always frightened, because of his extraordinary ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ ability to be "in the know" and his extraordinary capacity for putting two and two together and getting the right answer. PLAYFAIR supposed, however, that this was partly because BURGESS, being in the Foreign Office, actually was "in the know" over a fairly wide field.

7. PLAYFAIR said that Tommy BALOGH was another who had similar propensities and, if anything, an even more extraordinary capacity for putting two and two together. BALOGH is now a Fellow of Balliol. Because he was a Hungarian refugee, PLAYFAIR said, "we" always steered clear of him if possible in the war. I took it that PLAYFAIR's use of "we" referred to himself and his colleagues in the Treasury and perhaps other government departments.

8. I asked PLAYFAIR whether he could amplify the remark which I understood from [redacted] to have been his reaction to [redacted] saying that an enquiry had been made about him regarding Kemball JOHNSTON, and that it was a "political question". I gathered from [redacted] that PLAYFAIR had replied that that "did not at all surprise him". PLAYFAIR said that that was not quite a correct version of what he had said, because he did not, in fact, know JOHNSTON well enough to make such a pronouncement. He suggested that it would probably help to outline, at this stage, the extent of his contact with JOHNSTON. They entered Eton as King's Scholars in the same term. As he was somewhat younger than JOHNSTON he stayed at Eton a year longer and did not go up to Kings, Cambridge until 1927 - whereas JOHNSTON went up to Trinity in 1926. At Eton they were friends but not intimate. At Cambridge he saw JOHNSTON only occasionally. PLAYFAIR later remembered that both he and JOHNSTON had roots in St. Andrews and that this was a factor which drew them together, slightly at any rate, at Eton. From the time that they left Cambridge - JOHNSTON in 1929 and PLAYFAIR in 1930 - he did not meet JOHNSTON again until about 1950, in which year PLAYFAIR moved out from London to live in Stansted, Essex. Soon after arriving there he met JOHNSTON at some social function, and he had since met him at one or two cocktail parties and travelling on the train to and from London. When PLAYFAIR moved to Stansted JOHNSTON was living at Henham near Bishops Stortford. He later moved (in fact in 1954) to Stapleford near Cambridge, and roughly the same pattern of spasmodic contact had continued. PLAYFAIR thought that it was about a year since he last saw JOHNSTON.

9. PLAYFAIR pointed out that this degree of contact, with a twenty one year gap from 1929 to 1950 - covering what would presumably be the years of interest - did not enable him to claim to be an expert on JOHNSTON. He had not, since meeting JOHNSTON again in 1950, particularly sought his company. He never found him very attractive. He was arrogant and rather vain. But, on the other hand, he had always been amiable towards PLAYFAIR, and PLAYFAIR did not, therefore go out of his way to avoid him.

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10. It was whilst describing the degree of friendship between himself and JOHNSTON that PLAYFAIR brought in the name of John LEHMANN. In saying that he only saw JOHNSTON occasionally at Cambridge, he added that he did not know him anything like as well as he knew, for instance, "the doubtless well-known John LEHMANN" who was also a contemporary of his and JOHNSTON's in College at Eton and an exact contemporary of JOHNSTON's at Trinity, Cambridge.

11. I told PLAYFAIR that I hoped that he might be able to help to pin point the origins of JOHNSTON's move to the left, and possibly to provide clues as to those responsible. He accepted that the identification of those of JOHNSTON's associates who were close to him at that stage, whenever it was, and whose influence affected him, could well be of more than academic interest. He took the point that JOHNSTON's contemporaries would by now be likely to be at the peaks of their careers. PLAYFAIR said that, because of the long gap in his contact with JOHNSTON he did not think that he would be able to throw any light on this question. He said that at Eton JOHNSTON was certainly non-political, as they all were. He was pretty certain that JOHNSTON was also non-political at Cambridge. He was confident that he would have heard directly or indirectly if that were not so. He added that there was little political activity of interest at Cambridge in the period when he and JOHNSTON and their contemporaries were there, and made the point that the by now well-known outbreak of left-wing, and indeed Communist, interest did not start until later. It was his impression, he said, that there was no Communist Party branch at Cambridge until about 1934. He said that "we were all non-political" in his time at Cambridge. He was not aware of any unofficial Communist or Marxist groups or gatherings. I told him that we had good reason to believe that before any formal or organised groups or branches came into existence - and therefore in the period in which he was at Cambridge - there were unofficial gatherings. I had said that we regarded Maurice DOBB as the spiritual mentor of any promising or actual Marxist converts. I mentioned that it was an established fact that DOBB was the spiritual mentor of, for instance, BURGESS and PHILBY. Though this was admittedly later, DOBB's relationship with these two was on an informal basis, and we thought he had had similar informal relationships in earlier years.

PLAYFAIR said that he certainly did not recollect ever hearing anything of this kind about DOBB in his day at Cambridge. He expressed surprise at DOBB fulfilling this sort of role, and at the implication that DOBB was an ardent and thorough-going Communist. He said he did not know much about DOBB. He seemed uncertain of DOBB's appointment in his own days at Cambridge. He ~~XXXX~~ had certainly heard of him since and understood him to be an able economist. He remembered coming across his work during his, PLAYFAIR's, connection with the Fabian Research Society. Though it was evident to him that DOBB took a left-wing view, it had never occurred to him that he went as far as Marxism or Communism.

12. At this stage PLAYFAIR said that he feared he was not going to be able to be of much assistance as far as Kemball JOHNSTON was concerned. He thought perhaps the most useful thing he could do would be to give me the names of two people whom he knew to have been friends of JOHNSTON for many years. He said that they were, to the best of his knowledge and belief, thoroughly reputable and reliable, and thought that they would be prepared to throw such light as they could upon JOHNSTON's career, activities, movements and political opinions. The first was Andrew CARNWATH, a King's Scholar at Eton though two years junior there to JOHNSTON and himself. PLAYFAIR said he is or was a near neighbour of JOHNSTON, though his address could be ascertained from the Cambridge telephone directory. He added that CARNWATH is a director of Barings. He said that Carnwath would probably prove a useful source on JOHNSTON's social contacts and activities since the war, explaining that CARNWATH is a very sociable individual whereas he, PLAYFAIR, is not. He said, however, that he sees CARNWATH from time to time and could very easily, as a matter of casual conversation and without arousing any untoward reaction, ask CARNWATH whether he had seen anything of JOHNSTON lately. I said that I was a little apprehensive at the possibility of JOHNSTON's name being passed round and at the conclusions which might be drawn.

PLAYFAIR took this with typical courtesy and said that he would certainly not drop JOHNSTON's name to CARNWATH or anyone else without instructions to do so, but he felt sure that a casual enquiry about Kemball JOHNSTON on a suitably casual occasion, would be regarded by CARNWATH as entirely natural. He said he had it in mind that, if CARNWATH's reply indicated that he was fairly

up-to-date with JOHNSTON, he would let me know and we could consider an approach to CARNWATH. If, on the other had, CARNWATH's reply indicated that an approach would be of little value he could save us the trouble of making one. On this basis, and feeling confident that PLAYFAIR would be eminently capable of raising the subject of JOHNSTON without arousing undue interest, I ~~KNOWING~~ thanked him and asked him to do as he proposed if a suitable and natural opportunity occurred.

13. The second name mentioned by PLAYFAIR was Peter FAIRBAIRN who, he said, used to live in Henham when JOHNSTON lived there. FAIRBAIRN was "the same election" to a King's Scholarship at Eton as JOHNSTON and himself. He was also at Trinity, Cambridge where he got his B.A. in 1930. He is now a mining engineer. PLAYFAIR undertook to send me FAIRBAIRN's current address, of which he said he had a note at home.

(PLAYFAIR was as good as his word and, despite his departure for India the next day, wrote a brief note that night giving particulars of both FAIRBAIRN and CARNWATH. This note is filed at serial .....

14. I remarked to PLAYFAIR that I had hoped not only that he might be able to throw some first-hand light on JOHNSTON but also that he might be able to comment significantly on any of JOHNSTON's actual or possible associates who might have been known to him. I said that PLAYFAIR's mention of John LEHMANN had struck me in this context because I had earlier noticed, from perusal of a Trinity, Cambridge Register that John LEHMANN and JOHNSTON were exact contemporaries there. PLAYFAIR said that he thought that John LEHMANN would have had very little in common with JOHNSTON though certainly they were also contemporaries in College at Eton, but PLAYFAIR who knew LEHMANN well never had the impression that LEHMANN knew JOHNSTON more than casually at Eton or at Cambridge and had no recollection of hearing that they had kept up with each other subsequently. PLAYFAIR then added, however, that it occurred to him that, if there was at any time any more than a casual acquaintanceship between JOHNSTON and LEHMANN, the point of contact might have been Vienna, where LEHMANN spent a good deal of time in the 1930s and where he knew that JOHNSTON also was.

15. I said that I would be very interested, particularly if it proved that there was some contact between JOHNSTON and LEHMANN in Vienna, to know whereon PLAYFAIR, on his evidently close knowledge of LEHMANN, would place LEHMANN in the political spectrum. PLAYFAIR replied that LEHMANN had been very much like himself, drawn towards the left-wing and interested in left-wing ideas. PLAYFAIR gave a rapid and concisely worded analysis of the attitude of LEHMANN and himself and which, it was evident, applied also to a number of unnamed associates, who thought along the same lines and to whom he referred as "we". His remarks clearly applied to a period, unspecified, in the 1930s. The conclusion of his analysis was that "we treated the Communist Party asymptotically". PLAYFAIR evidently, and with some justification, doubted whether I was familiar with this term and evidently wishing to make his point, deftly approached his conclusion from a slightly different angle and gave himself an opportunity to repeat the word. In a final reference to LEHMANN he said that he was sure that he had never been a Communist, and that he certainly was not one now. He added that he would be very surprised if he were wrong about that, but that it was, of course, possible that he was wrong. He remarked that he had, after all, known Guy BURGESS very well and





18. PLAYFAIR said that it always struck him as very odd that JOHNSTON changed his job in the way in which he did when he had a good and well paid post in B.E.A.M.A. At first I took this as a reference to JOHNSTON's transferring his service to Ferranti, but it appeared that PLAYFAIR did not realise that JOHNSTON was employed by Ferranti. He said that it was a pleasant surprise and remarked that Basil Ferranti was his Deputy Chairman, an arrangement which came about when International Computers and Tabulators took over the Computer division of Ferranti's. It transpired that, in his remark about JOHNSTON's change of employment, PLAYFAIR was thinking of the time when JOHNSTON apparently gave up his regular salaried office job with B.E.A.M.A., but continued to work for them at home on a fee basis. PLAYFAIR said that this must certainly have been considerably to JOHNSTON's financial disadvantage. He could quite understand the attraction of working privately at home in one's own time, but he nevertheless thought it very odd that JOHNSTON, particularly with his considerable family commitments, should consider it worth the financial sacrifice. PLAYFAIR is certainly not the type of man to indulge in mere gossip, or to make a remark or initiate a line of thought aimlessly. He did not offer any interpretation of this action of JOHNSTON, though the manner in which he said it suggested that he had in mind the possibility of some somewhat unorthodox explanation.

19. I suggested to PLAYFAIR that, after our discussion of JOHNSTON, some further recollection might come to him about JOHNSTON or his associates. I also said that, after reflecting on the people and subject discussed it might occur to him that there were other points on which he might be able to throw light. I said I thought it might be very helpful to be able to ask him for the sort of informed and detailed analysis which he had been able to give in respect of LEHMANN and the Bell brothers, if we found ourselves concerned with individuals whose political views and allegiances in the 1930s, for instance, were difficult to elucidate. PLAYFAIR said that he was most willing to be of any assistance that he could, and that he would be returning from his trip to India on the 4th July. He said that he feared that it was unlikely that he would be able to make any further contribution on JOHNSTON because he had seen so little of him between leaving Cambridge and 1950 - adding that in fact, as he had said before, he did not see him at all in that period.

20. I thanked him for the trouble which he had taken during ~~the~~ the hour or so I had been with him, and for his exhibition of willingness for a further discussion if necessary. He assured me most courteously that he was always delighted to do anything he could for my "admirable office".

40a

NOTE FOR FILESearch for further papers

3. Colbert had been unable to find any papers so far. He thought it probable that Sir Henry MacGeagh had destroyed the letter of resignation from JOHNSTON on the grounds that the file copy of Sir Henry MacGeagh's reply to JOHNSTON (see note attached to 272a) was self-explanatory. This unfortunately is not entirely so from the point of view of our interests. Colbert apparently thinks it possible, though not very probable, that there might be something about JOHNSTON in the private papers of Sir Henry MacGeagh of which he has charge. He will let know if he finds anything.

Sir Edward PLAYFAIR

4. (During my interview with him on 12th June, 1964 in consulting his Old Etonian record, remarked that PLAYFAIR must have known JOHNSTON at Eton, where they were King's scholars together and added that PLAYFAIR was the sort of responsible person who could be asked for information about JOHNSTON. I thanked for the suggestion at the time and said I would bear it in mind, but refrained from any expression of enthusiasm or the reverse. I had in fact become aware that PLAYFAIR had a P.F. I had not seen it and did not know its contents, but recalled that I had come across mention of PLAYFAIR - including mention of his P.F. number - in the file of John LEHMAN (PF. 41,490) which I had examined because he was an exact contemporary of JOHNSTON at Trinity, Cambridge).

5. The second item mentioned by on the telephone was that he had also taken a chance opportunity of having a word with Sir Edward PLAYFAIR, which he hoped was all right. PLAYFAIR had said that he remembered JOHNSTON, apparently quite well, and remarked that they were fairly near neighbours (PLAYFAIR has lived for a good many years at Stansted, Essex. JOHNSTON lived near Bishops Stortford until he moved to the vicinity of Cambridge in 1954). It was fairly evident that PLAYFAIR has knowledge of JOHNSTON since their days together at Eton, but did not give, and perhaps did not know details. PLAYFAIR told that he was leaving for India on a fourteen day visit on 17th June, 1964, and that he would be very willing to see "someone from the Ministry" before his departure. suggested that I should telephone PLAYFAIR, as PLAYFAIR had apparently himself suggested.

/6. ....

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6. Having earlier asked [redacted] (in what I hope was a respectfully reproachful tone) whether he had mentioned the name of the person concerned to PLAYFAIR, I now asked him to what extent he had indicated to PLAYFAIR the nature of the enquiry. [redacted] replied that he had said that "it was a political question", to which PLAYFAIR had replied "I am not in the least surprised".

7. I said that I hoped that [redacted] had conveyed to PLAYFAIR that this was a somewhat delicate and confidential enquiry, pointing out that JOHNSTON not only is a lawyer but also has something of a reputation as a "Barrack Room" lawyer. I asked [redacted] whether he had in mind anyone else who might have knowledge of JOHNSTON, and made the point that we were anxious that there should be no danger of rumours circulating or word getting back to JOHNSTON. He said that he had no one in mind. I asked him to let me know if anyone else occurred to him so that we could consider the desirability of an approach before making one. I pointed out that that decision might be affected by enquiries which we had already made or, for instance, by the knowledge which we had acquired of personal relationships - which might sometimes indicate that an approach would be either superfluous or perhaps hazardous.

8. I thanked [redacted] for letting me know that PLAYFAIR was prepared to be contacted but I think he also realised there was some doubt about the wisdom of his initiative. I had, in the first place, made it clear to [redacted] that I was consulting him on a delicate and confidential matter. His reaction was to indicate he was not the sort of person to whom anything more need be said. Indeed, he seemed to take the point very readily in my initial telephone conversation with him, in which he recalled that JOHNSTON had made "a very curious remark" to him in 1945. He appeared to be rightly reluctant to proceed further and agreed promptly to my suggestion that the telephone might not be the best medium of discussion and that I should come round to see him.

D.H.

16th June, 1964.

*R.A.H.*  
R. A. Henley.

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39a

EXTRACT

Extract for File No. : PF. 604,861 Name: PLAYFAIR  
 Original in File No. : PF. 604,711 Vol.: 4 Serial: 272a Receipt Date: .....  
 Original from: Note for file Under Ref.: D.4./BAH Dated: 15.6.64  
 Extracted on: 19.6.64 by: JAR. Section: D.4.

Extract from Interview with [redacted]  
 re Kemball F. A. JOHNSTON's employment in  
 J.A.G.'s office in 1945 ment. Sir Edward PLAYFAIR. Date of Interview 12.6.64

.....

[redacted] had no recollection of meeting or hearing of JOHNSTON at any other time although both he and JOHNSTON were at Eton, he being about six months older than JOHNSTON. He said, however, that it was unusual for Oppidians to know Collegers unless they have some special reason for coming into contact with each other. Referring to an Old Etonian record, he ascertained that there had also been some two years difference in seniority at Eton between himself and JOHNSTON- he having gone there very young, and JOHNSTON having gone at a rather older than average age. His eye was caught by the name of Sir Edward PLAYFAIR, who was also a King's Scholar at Eton and left in 1927 - a year after JOHNSTON. [redacted] commented that PLAYFAIR would, therefore, certainly have known JOHNSTON well and might have kept up with him afterwards and that he was the sort of responsible person who could in his opinion be asked about JOHNSTON.

.....

\* If the original is in the file of an individual include the name of the file owner

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Note:  
 Kemball F.A. JOHNSTON -  
 Subject of D.I. investigation.

12/18  
 28/10/64

38a

D.D.G.

As regards H.R.'s minute, I have dealt with it in that I have told D4/Henley all that he needs to know regarding the subject of the file.

2. In view of the fact that the subject of the file has now left Government employment, I wonder whether it might not be possible to enlarge the circulation to, perhaps, D branch only.

*[Handwritten signature]*

Courtenay Young.

D.4  
1.4.64

H.R. *RS* *AA.* *please transfer &*

*[Handwritten initials]*

I see no reason for this continuing to be held by H.R.

D.D.G.  
6th April 1964

*[Handwritten initials]*

*[Handwritten signature]*  
8.4.64

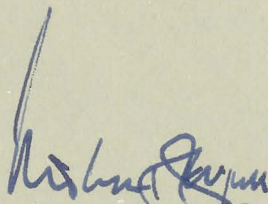
TOP SECRET PERSONAL

Reference.....

37a

D.4/Mr Young

I enclose PF.604,861 which, as you will see, is a file of strictly limited circulation. I understand that Mr Henley of your section would like to see it in relation to a case of one of PLAYFAIR's contemporaries. May I leave it to you to decide whether he needs to see PF.604,861 and if he does, to record its circulation to him.

  
M.F. Serpell

H.R.  
23.3.64

TOP SECRET PERSONAL

CVRS  
8.4.64



Reference... att. PF. 604,861.

*36a*

~~*[Signature]*~~  
D. L. E. McB.

With reference to S. Form 239, the D.D.G.  
has authorized the circulation of this file  
to you.

*[Signature]*  
M. F. Serpell

H.R.  
20.8.63.

~~H.R. HR Sec.~~ Pl. arrange ~~Att.~~  
Many thanks. Do you think the  
card should be brought up to  
date as at extract from Whos Who  
at 35a.

*[Signature]*  
Richard B. Samuel

D  
21/8/63 *[initials]*  
26.8.63

352

Extract from Who's Who, 1962.

PLAYFAIR, Sir Edward Wilder, K.C.B. 1957 (C.B. 1949);  
 Chairman International Computers and Tabulators Ltd.,  
 since 1961; Director: Westminster Bank; Westminster  
 Foreign Bank; Glaxo Laboratories.

Born. 17 May 1909.

Son of late Dr Ernest Playfair and of Mrs. Playfair,  
 Fishbourne, I.o.W.

Married 1941, Dr. Mary Lois Rae; three daughters.

Educated; Eton; King's College, Cambridge. (1927-30)  
 Inland Revenue, 1931-34; H.M. Treasury, 1934-46 and  
 1947-56 (Control Office for Germany and Austria,  
 1946-47); Permanent Under-Secretary of State for War,  
 1956-59; Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence,  
 1960-61; Governor, Imperial College of Science and  
 Technology 1958-; Member, Royal Fine Art Commission,  
 1961-;.

Address; Brewery House, Stansted, Essex.

Telephone; 3368.

Clubs; Reform, Brook's.

5th March, 1963.

Imperial Calendar for 1934-1937 inclusive shows  
 E.W. PLAYFAIR as an Assistant Principal at the  
 Treasury; that for 1938 shows him as a Principal  
 at the Treasury. Then for 1946 as Asst. Sec.

BP/D3. 5.2.68.

APR 26 9 1963  
 3180  
 6.362

34A

Note.

This afternoon I visited Mr. Playfair, P.U.S. War Office, and thanked him for the services with which the War Office provided us. We had a general talk about security and, in particular, about the business of the recent meeting of the Official Committee on Security.

D.G.

———— R. H. HOLLS

16.7.56.

✓  
25826  
J. H. M.  
18.7.56

SECRET

350  
346

EXTRACT

Extract for File No.: PF. 604,861 Name: PLAYFAIR  
 Original in File No.:\* PF. 606,150 Vol.: Serial: 63a Receipt Date:  
 Original from: Interview report Under Ref.: F.I.A./D.I.A.H. Dated: 14.8.62  
 Extracted on: 4.11.64 by: JAR Section: D.3.

Extract from report by F.I.A./Mr. Hamblen on interview with Mrs. Jenifer Margaret HART, ex-Home Office employee, and former Communist.

.....

The Period 1936-37

8. Mrs. HART told me that she passed very high into the Civil Service (she was in fact 3rd in her class) and that her inclination was to choose the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries since she was wrapped up in problems of agricultural quotas at that time. As her second choice she favoured the Ministry of Labour. When discussing the matter with Bernard FLOUD he clearly took the view that she ought to go into one of the more important departments where there was likely to be information of value to the Communist Party. I asked whether the emphasis was on her collecting information for the Communist Party or securing a job in which she might influence policy. Without hesitation she said that, according to Bernard FLOUD, the Communist Party was primarily concerned with getting her well placed in the Civil Service from the point of view of her acquiring information and passing it on to the Party. At the same time she got the impression that this was a long term plan and that the period of lying fallow and building up her position was to last for ten years or more. In fact her small role was pictured to her as part of the basic Communist scheme of getting people into vital positions and high places against the day when it would be strong enough to exploit a revolutionary situation and make a bid for power. She added that it was her idea at that stage to stay in the Civil Service for life.

9. This and other factors influenced her to choose the Home Office which she entered in the Autumn of 1936. She was employed on childrens' problems for the next 2½ years. Bernard FLOUD's instruction was that she should join social and cultural clubs and generally build up an impression of being a right wing or "middle of the road" member of the Civil Service. In fact she joined the Musical Club, until she could stand their lack of tunefulness no longer, and a right wing Labour Club called the Ogpu to which reputable future senior Civil Servants belonged - e.g. Eddie PLAYFAIR and QUIRK.

.....

\*If the original is in the file of an individual include the name of the file owner

EXTRACT

Extract for File No.: FF. 604,561. (Held DG.) Name: PLAYFAIR 336

Original in File No.: \* FF. 61,365. Vol.: 2 Serial: 154a Receipt Date: 26.6.56.

Original from: U.K.A.E.A. Under Ref: AEQ 27921. Dated: 25.6.56.

Extracted on: 2.8.56. by: JAK Section: R.6.

Extract from United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority report  
(has access to delicate information) ment. PLAYFAIR.

.....  
On 31/8/1954 I interviewed Mr. Edward Wilder PLAYFAIR, C. B.  
Address Brewery House, Stanstead, Essex.  
at. H.M. Treasury Chambers.

(A) Mr. PLAYFAIR, age 45 years, holds the appointment of 3rd Secretary with H.M. Treasury. He has been an established Civil Servant since 1951.

(B) He has known subject socially and professionally since 1950. It was apparent during the interview that Mr. PLAYFAIR has an intimate and searching knowledge of [redacted]

(C) Mr. PLAYFAIR holds subject in high esteem as a stimulating and refreshing personal friend. He finds pleasure in his company, which apart from the intelligent view he takes of world affairs, derives much from the impartiality he shows when he states his views. [redacted] has "no chip on his shoulder", and there is no trait in his character which would indicate a warped mentality. He is amply endowed with the good things of life. Apart from his own brilliant career, he is very happily married to a gifted wife, and is devoted to his children.

As regards his political views he would say that he is liberal in his general outlook. He is certain that he holds no extreme views of any kind.

P.T.O.

\* If the original is in the file of an individual include the name of the file owner

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ACT-1958  
September 2022

EXTRACT

33b

Extract for File No. : ..... Name : .....

Original in File No. :\* ..... Vol. : ..... Serial : ..... Receipt Date : .....

Original from : ..... Under Ref. : ..... Dated : .....

Extracted on : ..... by : ..... Section : .....

\* If the original is in the file of an individual include the name of the file owner

Mr. FLAYFAIR said that recently [redacted] gave a tangible proof of his political leanings. At Birmingham University during the recent controversy over the treatment of [redacted] counselled and persuaded his subordinate colleagues not to associate themselves with the sympathisers [redacted] He told them that the attitude of the Home Office was right and normal, and that they should not "stick their neck out".

Mr. FLAYFAIR is certain that this advice was not given on the grounds of prudence, but from a genuine conviction that his colleagues should not mix themselves up with the left wing group of sympathisers.

(D) Mr. FLAYFAIR is an excellent referee in all respects.

S. W. WOOD.  
Investigating Officer.

2.9.54.

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ACT 1958 *September 2022*

W

C

BV'd by Treasury 8.7.47

SV

CONFIDENTIAL CIVILIAN PERSONNEL  
 TO BE COMPLETED IN TRIPLICATE, IN BLOCK CAPITALS (OR TYPED)  
 Every question must be answered. If any question is not applicable the word "NO" or "NIL"  
 should be inserted



1. First names <b>EDWARD WILDER</b>		2. Surname <b>PLAYFAIR</b>	
3. Date and place of birth <b>17.5.1909</b>		4. Nationality <b>British</b>	5. Nationality at Birth
7. Service No.	8. Rank	9. Service Unit	10. Present employment <b>P.V.S War Office</b>

11. Private address <b>BREWERY HOUSE STANSTEAD ESSEX.</b>	12. If you have held a British Passport give No.
--	--

NOTE:- Even if any of the individuals specified in Boxes 13, 14 and 15 are dead, the name and nationality particulars must be given.

13. FATHER	14. MOTHER	15. HUSBAND/WIFE
Surname	Maiden name	Surname/Maiden name
First names	First names	First names
Nationality	Nationality	Nationality
Nationality at birth	Nationality at birth	Nationality at birth
If naturalised state date	If naturalised state date	If naturalised state date
Address	Address	Address

16. Give brief particulars of previous employments stating name of employer, capacity in which employed and for what periods:-

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

17. Have you any relatives, i.e., Brothers, Sisters, Sons, Daughters, In-Laws and Step Relations, now in countries outside the British Commonwealth of Nations (Other than in the Commonwealth Armed Forces)? If so, give the following particulars:-

Name	Relationship	Address

Date .....

Signature .....



Barbara

*No action* But see 30A & 31A.

As I guessed PICTON was a made up name between Courtenay and Ronnie because they had to write loose minutes to each other and because of the fact that Ronnie's new secretary is not indoctrinated.

EMCW

**TOP SECRET**  
**PERSONAL**

D. 1.

*Excerpt from original not  
now filed at 272.*

I have tried hard to remember the exact words of my conversation with REES on this subject. My recollection is that after discussing the events of the week of the disappearance of BURGESS and MACLEAN and after trying to reconstruct the sequence of them I asked REES if anything had occurred since his statement in 1951 that would shed any new light upon the whole complex. He replied that he could not recall anything of any importance that might help us.

At about this stage I then said to REES "I appreciate that what I am about to ask you is probably a \$64,000 question and you do not need to answer it at all if you do not want to. You will however appreciate that having searched BURGESS's flat and having found a lot of correspondence that he had carried on with other people we now know the names of a great many people with whom BURGESS was associated, sometimes intimately and sometimes only as acquaintances. For example, we have a great deal of the correspondence that BURGESS initiated and received from people in connection with BURGESS's work as secretary of the Conversazione Society at Cambridge. Some of these people were his close friends and some he hardly knew. We have spent a great deal of time trying to assess the significance of each person that came into BURGESS's life. We have hundreds of names and we have looked at each one of them very carefully, particularly when the person concerned was found to be currently in Government employment. I want to ask you if you can suggest the names of some people who were known to BURGESS either intimately or casually who might in some way have been connected with BURGESS's espionage activities either as a conscious or unconscious source."

REES sat back further on the settee, lit a cigarette and replied that that was certainly a \$64,000 question. He then said (and I cannot quite remember if this was the first name he mentioned or not, as I have not my original report to hand) "How about John CAIRNCROSS?" I replied "I said I would be frank with you and I am prepared to tell you that we believe that CAIRNCROSS was a spy, and that he was recruited by BURGESS to whom he worked". REES replied "I am not surprised. CAIRNCROSS is (or was) a very unhappy man."

After a short discussion on CAIRNCROSS I said "Anyone else?" REES then said "How about KESSLER?" I replied "There is some reason to believe that he too was involved with BURGESS in espionage activities." REES then asked me if we had thought of ZAEHNER, a don at Oxford who was KESSLER's brother-in-law. REES said that ZAEHNER was not on good terms at the present time with KESSLER because KESSLER had lent him some money which ZAEHNER had failed to repay. In BURGESS's time however and perhaps during the war KESSLER had been on close terms with his brother-in-law. I told REES that I did not know the name of ZAEHNER at all well but I would look into it.

After another short pause, and continuing in exactly the same vein, REES said "How about Eddie PICTON?" I replied (as previously reported) "The name does not ring

/much

**TOP SECRET** **PERSONAL**

*Ex'd to PF 50  
v PF 605512*

*PLAINTEXT*

much of a bell with me but I think I have heard of it. I will certainly look into it." I think I then asked REES who PICTON was and he told me that he was an official of the Treasury whom BURGESS knew but he could not expand on the closeness of their relationship. I think REES said that at the time of the Tangier incident when BURGESS was on the carpet for currency infringements BURGESS had told REES that he had taken or was considering taking the advice of PICTON at the Treasury. I am pretty sure that REES did not say any more about PICTON and we went on to the next name, a Hungarian Jew whose name REES could not recall. After REES had said that this Hungarian was a friend of BLUNT and that he was connected with art circles I prompted REES with the name REVAI. REES agreed that REVAI was the name he was trying to think of.

I cannot add more to my recollections of the conversation.

C.I.B.  
23.5.56.

*R.T. Reed*  
R.T. Reed.

TOP SECRET PERSONAL

*Na*  
C.I.B. - Mr. Reed.

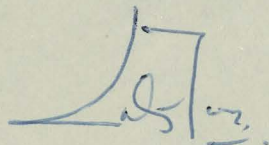
Reference our telephone conversation this afternoon. The file is in bits but the relevant extract from your note on your interview with REES is as follows:-

"REES next suggested the name "PICTON". I replied that this did not ring much of a bell with me but I thought that we had been aware of his name. I would certainly look into it."

2. "PICTON's" name was mentioned immediately after that of ZAEHNER and immediately before that of REVAL. That I fear is all that we have on record as regards REES's allegations.

3. Having regard to "PICTON's" recent appointment D.D.G. would be grateful if you could expand on this, especially if you could indicate whether you thought REES was shooting wildly or really meant it. He certainly hit a number of bells starting with CAIRNCROSS and moving immediately on to ORANGE.

D.I.  
22.5.56.



Courtenay Young.

TOP SECRET PERSONAL

29A

THE TIMES.

12.5.56.

**NEW PERMANENT UNDER  
SECRETARY FOR WAR**

The Secretary of State for War announces that, with the approval of the Prime Minister and the concurrence of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, he has appointed Mr. E. W. Playfair to succeed Sir George Turner as Permanent Under-Secretary of State for War. Mr. Edward Wilder Playfair, who will be 47 next week, has been a Third Secretary to the Treasury since 1950.

✓  
25-5-56  
15-5-56

28a.

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27e

Extract for PF 604,861, Edward PLAYFAIR

Original at serial 177a in PF 604,583

Mr Skardon and I interviewed Goronwy REES in a room at the Great Western Hotel at Paddington from 2.30 to 4.30 p.m. on 21 March.

.....

I then asked REES if he could think of people who in his opinion might have been working with BURGESS in his espionage organisation. I realised that this was the "sixty-four dollar question" and that he might want to think about it carefully before he made any reply.

REES asked me if we had ever considered John CAIRNCROSS. I told REES that he had certainly hit the nail on the head for we were quite sure that CAIRNCROSS had indeed been working for BURGESS. I asked REES why he had mentioned CAIRNCROSS as his first candidate. REES replied that CAIRNCROSS was a person whom BURGESS was constantly talking about before the war. He was a person whom BURGESS over-praised so much that REES thought the praise suspicious. This of course was one of BURGESS's most annoying characteristics. He was constantly seizing upon the name of some fairly intelligent individual and maintaining to his friends that the person was the most remarkable man he had ever met. In the case of CAIRNCROSS he was no doubt a brilliant man but not nearly so brilliant as BURGESS constantly claimed.

For his second candidate REES asked if we had considered KESSLER. I said that we had and it was very probable that KESSLER had been working for BURGESS. REES then asked if we had made any enquiries about KESSLER's brother-in-law at Oxford, a certain Robin ? ZAEHNER. I told REES that I did not know the name except vaguely and REES added quickly that he was not suggesting that ZAEHNER was in fact active at the present time as he had every reason to believe that ZAEHNER had fallen out with KESSLER. It appeared that ZAEHNER had lent KESSLER some money and that the money had not been repaid. (I see from "Who's Who" that it is Professor Robert Charles ZAEHNER, M.A., Spalding Professor of Eastern Religions and Ethics since 1952, address All Souls College, Oxford.)

REES next suggested the name Eddie PLAYFAIR. I replied that this did not ring much of a bell with me but I thought that we had been aware of his name. I would certainly look into it.

.....

D.1.A.  
26.3.56.

(signed) R.T. Reed

D.1.A.  
17/56

SECRET

EXTRACT

26c

Extract for File No. PF604861 Name: .....

Original in File No. \*PF604582/SA Vol. :9 Serial :716 Receipt Date :14.11.55

Original from: T/C on BLUNDEN Under Ref. : 2843 Dated :13.11.55

Extracted on: 21 August 1974

by: .....

K7

? Priority  
QUESTIONS  
IN HOUSE

Incoming call to BLUNDEN from TESS (ringing from Cambridge). She wanted to know if it was true that he had been in Italy and if it had been politic or fun. BLUNDEN told her what he had been doing -

T: Not just - er - avoid circumstances????

B: Well, no, as it happened the Italian thing happened to coincide exactly with that.

T: Oh how marvellous.

B: Which was really rather convenient. TESS, tell me one?? of?? the things, somebody - I think it must have been Lady?? (EDDIE??) PLAYFAIR told me that VICTOR's name had been dragged into this.

T: Yes.

B: Where? and how?

T: Well, actually it was very decent of old - you remember BURT -

B: Remember what?

T: You remember BURT -

B: Yes.

T: He very kindly sent VICTOR a copy of a very disagreeable anti-Semitic publication, which is fearfully carefully worded, so that, you know, you couldn't -

B: Couldn't yes

T: Actually do anything.

B: (But in what???)

T: Well it is some magazine, with I gather a very small circulation, of a highly anti-Semitic nature, saying that VICTOR was behind it all, and worded so carefully, implying that although VICTOR of course didn't do the protecting, everybody else did it because they knew who was behind it. I mean, it couldn't have been - it couldn't of possibly been nastier, but BURT very kindly sent it and we were then expecting other papers possibly to get on, but however there haven't been any repercussions at all. It did in fact say that GUY had lived in his flat or shared a flat, I think was the word, well certainly lived in his flat throughout the war. I think VICTOR's still got it you might like to see it.

B: Yes, I would. How absolutely -

I do not know anything about this. Do you?  
It has no apparent connection with B

Dia

Surely it has

Commander, Metropolitan SB.  
superior colleague.

ROTHSCHILD  
(PF605,565; et al)

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SECRET

EXTRACT

26c

Extract for File No. PF604861 Name: .....

Original in File No. PF604582/SA Vol. 9 Serial 716 Receipt Date 14.11.55

Original from: T/C on BLUNDEN Under Ref. 2843 Dated 13.11.55

Extracted on: 21 August 1974

by: .....

K7

? Priority  
QUESTIONS  
IN HOUSE

Incoming call to BLUNDEN from TESS (ringing from Cambridge). She wanted to know if it was true that he had been in Italy and if it had been politic or fun. BLUNDEN told her what he had been doing -

T: Not just - er - avoid circumstances????

B: Well, no, as it happened the Italian thing happened to coincide exactly with that.

T: Oh how marvellous.

B: Which was really rather convenient. TESS, tell me one?? of?? the things, somebody - I think it must have been Lady?? (EDDIE??) PLAYFAIR told me that VICTOR's name had been dragged into this.

T: Yes.

B: Where? and how?

T: Well, actually it was very decent of old - you remember BURT -

B: Remember what?

T: You remember BURT -

Commander, Metropolitan SB  
superior colleague.

B: Yes.

T: He very kindly sent VICTOR a copy of a very disagreeable anti-Semitic publication, which is fearfully carefully worded, so that, you know, you couldn't -

B: Couldn't yes

T: Actually do anything.

B: (But in what???)

ROTHSCHILD  
(PF605565, extracted)

T: Well it is some magazine, with I gather a very small circulation, of a highly anti-Semitic nature, saying that VICTOR was behind it all, and worded so carefully, implying that although VICTOR of course didn't do the protecting, everybody else did it because they knew who was behind it. I mean, it couldn't have been - it couldn't of possibly been nastier, but BURT very kindly sent it and we were then expecting other papers possibly to get on, but however there haven't been any repercussions at all. It did in fact say that EUY had lived in his flat or shared a flat, I think was the word, well certainly lived in his flat throughout the war. I think VICTOR's still got it you might like to see it.

B: Yes, I would. How absolutely -

I do not know  
anything about this. Do you?  
It has no apparent  
connection with B  
of us.

↑  
Dta

Surely it has  
con

M

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ACT 1958 September 2022

SECRET

SECRET

T: So we had a nasty little while wondering what was going to happen.

26c

B: Oh God how awful.

T: However -

B: I simply couldn't - EDDIE told me in rather a vague way.

T: Well I happened to sit next to ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ EDDIE at lunch.

B: Oh thats .. He said he'd seen you.

T: Yes. But in fact nothing has happened and we decided not to do anything about it.

B: That was obviously wise.

T: Then it would draw attention -

B: Of course.

T: Because I don't think anybody would read it. I imagine its one of these things that are privately circulated, about 500 copies at the most. I suppose it still remains possible that some nasty journalist will take it up.

B: I shouldn't have thought so now.

T: But I think its -

B: I think really the thingx is, from a publicity point of view, I think the thing is very much dead.

T: I think at last its dead, and I think, in fact, the Princess Margaret thing knocked a lot of space out that -

B: Of course. And also one or other crises fortunately at that time???????

T: Quite.

B: Thats very true.

T: So that we just hope.

TESS said they were longing to see BLUNDEN, what about tomorrow evening. BLUNDEN was supposed to be going to a concert at 7.30 and after to LULIE's??? - BLUNDEN might be able to get out of it. He suggested perhaps TESS and VICTOR could come round for a drink. TESS would call back as VICTOR was out now - either later or tomorrow morning early - or perhaps they might be staying up over Tuesday.

15.40.

Extract from Note for File by G. R. MITCHELL on his interview with WINNIFRITH re Dennis PROCTOR, Treasury Official (PF. 604,597 Serial 16a). The note is dated 3.11.53.

---

.....

Winnifrith said that he knew PROCTOR pretty well but that others in the Treasury, including Eddie PLAYFAIR who is probably PROCTOR's greatest friend, knew him still better. ....

DJDM  
2/4/62

26A

PF.604861/B.1.E/DHW

9th April 1953.

CONFIDENTIAL & PERSONAL

Dear Winnifrith,

Edward Wilder PLAYFAIR

We discussed this case when I visited you on 27th March.

I think you told me that in your opinion the traces of PLAYFAIR can be disregarded and the case closed. I can now say that we agree with this opinion.

Yours sincerely,

*RCS.*

R.C. Symonds.

A.J.D. Winnifrith Esq., C.B.,  
Treasury Chambers,  
Great George Street,  
London, S.W.1.

RCS/RCH

*R 15/4*

CONFIDENTIAL & PERSONAL

BIE/rch  
9.4.53

23A

Note for PF.604861 - PLAYFAIR.

At Winnifrith's request I called at the Treasury today to discuss this case and others. Winnifrith told me that, as he expected, PLAYFAIR's reply to the Security Questionnaire contained no information of any security interest. In Winnifrith's view, our traces of PLAYFAIR, which I described to him again, could be safely disregarded and the case closed.

B.I.E.  
27.3.53.

*R.C. Symonds.*  
R.C. Symonds.

*✓ 22 10/4 -*  
*BIE/RCH.*  
*27.3.53.*

CONFIDENTIAL & PERSONAL

22a

PF 604, 861/B. 1. E/DHW

4th March, 1953.

Dear Winnifrith,

Edward Wilder PLAYFAIR

You may remember that I called on you last November concerning two traces which appear in our records for Edward PLAYFAIR. We agreed that we should consider the question of what action should be taken, when PLAYFAIR had completed his P. V. questionnaire.

I should be grateful if you could let me know whether this part of the P. V. procedure has been completed in this case and what you feel should be the next step.

Yours sincerely,

David H. Whyte.

A. J. D. Winnifrith, Esq., C. B.,  
Treasury Chambers,  
Great George Street,  
London, S. W. 1.

DHW/HK

*[Handwritten signature]*  
5/3

PIE/HK  
4 2.53

19a

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ACT 1958.

16A

Note for PF.604861 - Edward Wilder PLAYFAIR

On 18th November I called on Winnifrith concerning the case of PLAYFAIR. I explained that in reviewing old cases, two traces for PLAYFAIR had been thrown up and I explained the nature of these traces, pointing out that they both admitted of an innocent interpretation.

Winnifrith told me that when PLAYFAIR entered the Civil Service he was originally assigned to the Inland Revenue, where he served for three years. It had immediately become apparent that he was one of the most brilliant people in the Civil Service and he was transferred to the Treasury. Apart from a brief period in the Control Office for Germany and Austria he had since then, ie. 1934, served in the Treasury continuously. He was therefore well known there to a very large number of people both officially and socially, and there had never been the slightest reason for doubting his loyalty.

Winnifrith told me that PLAYFAIR had for a long time been a bachelor, he had, however, married about five years ago a female doctor and they now had two children. After his marriage PLAYFAIR moved out of London to Essex. PLAYFAIR had never made any secret of the fact that he had a very wide circle of acquaintances including what Winnifrith described as "funnies"; for instance, PLAYFAIR had often referred to the fact that he had known BURGESS, (they belonged to the same club). In his official work, PLAYFAIR dealt with what are known as "Arts and Crafts", i.e. Museums, Picture Galleries and Cultural Institutions. In this connection he naturally had a varied selection of contacts; in his present work PLAYFAIR did not deal with secret matters. In confidence, Winnifrith told me that it was likely that he would soon go to ~~the~~ Chairman of the Inland Revenue, also from the point of view of secrets a very safe post.

*He married at age 31!  
(that is)*

We then turned to the question of what action should be taken. Winnifrith said that PLAYFAIR would fill in a p.v. questionnaire and he would let us know the outcome. I said it was possible that PLAYFAIR might make some admission concerning early Communist connections which would give us an opening for clearing the matter up, if, on the other hand, there was no such admission on his p.v. questionnaire, we should then have to face the problem of whether PLAYFAIR should be directly questioned or whether the traces should be disregarded and the case closed finally, or as a compromise the question could be deferred until PLAYFAIR was due to go to a particularly sensitive post. I said that I thought this last course would be most unsatisfactory. We agreed that we should re-consider the question when PLAYFAIR had filled in his p.v. questionnaire.

B. I. E.  
19.11.52.

*[Handwritten signature]*  
David H. Whyte.

*[Handwritten scribble]*  
2/12



96

(See ser. 9z in this file)

Reference.....

122

D.B., through B.2.

Owing to the successive absences from town of all the people concerned, I have only now succeeded in dealing with your note at 117b.

The position is that the information contained in your note was derived from J. H. Peck of I.R.D., to whom Sir Anthony Bevir had made an approach. The latter, to whom I have now spoken, in turn derived it from Sir Owen O'Malley, a former Ambassador to, I think, Portugal, who is his neighbour in Ireland. In the course of a purely social conversation a propos of nothing in particular, O'Malley remarked that everybody knew that Anthony BLUNT was or had been a Communist. No allegation was made against PLAYFAIR, whose name comes into this merely because it was he who suggested to Bevir that Anthony BLUNT would be a suitable person to become director of the National Gallery, and Bevir, acting, to use his own words, *ex abundante cautela*, thought it his duty to bring to official notice the fact that PLAYFAIR, in recommending BLUNT, did not at the same time say that he was a Communist.

PLAYFAIR and his father and mother are very well known indeed to Bevir, who has known PLAYFAIR himself since he was a boy. He does not in the least think that any suspicion attaches to PLAYFAIR. I told Bevir that this particular incident did not in my view give rise to any misgivings in respect of PLAYFAIR, but I did let him know that the allegation against BLUNT was substantially accurate. He told me that he was not much concerned about BLUNT since, if I understood him correctly, he had already decided to dismiss BLUNT from any National Gallery calculations. I now understand from you that in this respect he had probably been prompted by Peck.

I ought to say that my conversation with Bevir was over the telephone and was complicated by the elaborate double talk in which he indulged. I have not arranged to see him again, but I can do so if thought advisable.

Meanwhile I have had a belated look-up on PLAYFAIR, which shows that he was on intimate terms with John LEHMANN in 1934 and was obviously well known to Yvonne KAPP in 1937. An assessment of these traces is now being made and will be submitted to you. My preliminary reaction is that we should take no further action. PLAYFAIR is a 3rd Secretary at the Treasury where he has been for many years, and he was vetted N.R.A. in 1947. His name has never come up in our extensive researches into Cambridge University Communism in the thirties.

B.1.

(sngd) J. H. Marriott.

5.11.52.

D2 1002  
5/11/54

9a

Name: Edward Wilder PLAYFAIR.

Born: 17th May 1909

Father: Dr. Ernest Playfair, Fishbourne, Isle of Wight.

Educated: Eton and King's College, Cambridge

Entered Civil Service and appointed to Inland Revenue 1931.

Transferred to H.M. Treasury 1934.

Seconded to Control Office for Germany and Austria 1946-1947.

Third Secretary, H.M. Treasury since 1950

(Under-Secretary 1947-1950)

Decorations: C.B. (1949)

Address: Brewery House, Stansted, Essex.

Telephone: 3368

Club: Reform.

✓  
DEN  
P. 1152

92

B.1.

B.2.

Carey Foster told me that he had been given the following information by Sir Anthony Bevir, Patronage Secretary to the Prime Minister.

- (1) It was within Bevir's knowledge that E. W. (Eddy) PLAYFAIR, now employed at the Treasury, at one time held a Party Card.
- (2) It was also within his knowledge that Anthony BLUNT had likewise held one.

See 9b -

I think it should be taken into account that Carey Foster was unwilling to write a formal letter on this information. He appeared to me to doubt whether Bevir had given him the information with sufficient sense of responsibility. The statements were made by Bevir in a rather casual manner.

D.B.  
21.7.52

(Sgnd) D. G. White.

08/10/2  
5/11/64

X

ak 412 / ~~89~~ S.V.

489

80a

DEPARTMENT ..... H.M. Treasury .....

SURNAME ..... Playfair .....

(State name at birth if different or if known by any other names) .....

Full Christian names ..... Edward Wilder .....

Date and place of birth ..... 17th May 1909 ..... London .....

Nationality ..... British .....

Nationality at birth .....  
(if different from above)

Full name and nationality at birth of	{	Father ..... <u>Ernest Playfair</u> ..... <u>British</u> .....
		Mother ..... <u>Harriet Forester Leighton</u> ..... " .....
		Husband .....
		or Wife .....

Private address ..... 153 Old Church Street, S.W.3 .....

Permanent address .....

National Registration No. ....

Applicant for employment as .....

Brief particulars of previous employment	<u>Assistant Principal, Inland Revenue, 1931.</u>	
	<u>Principal, Treasury 1937</u>	
	<u>Assistant Secretary, Treasury 1942</u>	
	<u>Under Secretary, Control Office for Germany and Austria 1946</u>	
	<u>Secretary, Treasury 1947</u>	

NOTE

If applicant or parents naturalized state No., date and name in which certificate was granted .....

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

NOTHING RECORDED AGAINST

T232-47

16/11/47  
19/15-7

## EXTRACT

82a

Extract for File No.: PF. 604,861 Name: Edward PLAYFAIR  
 Original in File No.:\* L.255(14) Vol.: 5 Serial: 254a Receipt Date:  
 Original from: Security Service Under Ref.: Dated: 12.2.42  
 Extracted on: 31.3.65 by: WAO Section: D.3.

Extract from Security Service note prepared for Home Office  
 Alien's Department re appeal case of Charlotte ARNHEIM, wife  
 of Hans ARNHEIM who was a spy convicted by a French Court and  
 executed in Tunis in 1940, ment. PLAYFAIR.

(NOTE: The original document is damaged, and where words appear  
 in brackets with question marks, the most likely sense has been made).

Mr. Justice Birkett's Committee has heard further evidence  
 in this case. They have recommended Mrs. ARNHEIM's release (and we are ?)  
 asked to consider its desirability. The Committee (.....?) from  
 the evidence of Mr. Francis COOKE that he "had been (.....?) in love  
 with Mrs. ARNHEIM, that he was satisfied completely (that she ?) had no  
 knowledge of her husband's activities and that he (was ?) anxious for  
 her release that they might be married". They con(sented ?) that if  
 Mrs. ARNHEIM were married to Mr. COOKE, this would be "the most complete  
 security that could be devised". They have learnt from Miss Beatrix  
 LEHMANN and Mr. PLAYFAIR that they have known the parties over some  
 years in the most intimate ways and that they (were ?) both entirely  
 satisfied from their knowledge of Mrs. ARNHEIM that she knew nothing  
 whatever of the activities of her husband. The Committee are of  
 opinion that there is no direct evidence against Mrs. ARNHEIM.

We strongly submit that in spite of the evidence of Mr.  
 COOKE, Miss LEHMANN and Mr. PLAYFAIR, in the interests of security the  
 internment of Mrs. ARNHEIM should be continued for the duration of the  
 war.

Mr. COOKE is admittedly infatuated with Mrs. ARNHEIM, (who ?)  
 is a woman of far abler and stronger character than he is. It is only  
 to be expected that as is usual in such circumstances, (love ?) should  
 be blind. Miss LEHMANN and Mr. PLAYFAIR have known Mrs ARNHEIM not  
 independently of Mr. COOKE, but only through him, (first ?) as his  
 paramour and subsequently as his fiancée.

We do not for one moment suggest that the evidence given by  
 Mr. COOKE, Miss LEHMANN and Mr. PLAYFAIR was not given in good faith  
 but we believe them on the information in our possession to have been  
 deceived by a clever woman. In this connection it is material to  
 point out that both Mr. COOKE and Mr. PLAYFAIR were used by Hans ARNHEIM  
 for the purpose of acquiring information for his spy-paymaster H.W. von  
 GOERSCHEN of Rotterdam, since ARNHEIM was reimbursed by von GOERSCHEN  
 for expenses presumably in connection with their entertainment. We do not  
 intend to allege that Mr. COOKE or Mr. PLAYFAIR deliberately gave inform-  
 ation to Germany, but to point out that since they were capable of being  
 deceived when dealing with ARNHEIM, they are also capable of being deceived  
 by his attractive widow.

We submit that the evidence of Mr. COOKE, Miss LEHMANN and Mr.  
 PLAYFAIR amounts only to this, that Mr. COOKE is in love with Mrs. ARNHEIM,  
 that Miss LEHMANN and Mr. PLAYFAIR were social friends of Mr. COOKE and  
 through him met Mrs. ARNHEIM, and that neither Mr. COOKE, Miss LEHMANN or  
 Mr. PLAYFAIR saw or heard anything which led them to believe that Mrs.  
 ARNHEIM was involved in her husband's subversive activities.

\*If the original is in the file of an individual  
 include the name of the file owner

D3/1145  
 31/3/65

87.

EXTRACT

Extract for File No.: PF. 604,861 Name: Edward PLAYFAIR  
 Original in File No.: L.255(14) Vol.: 4 Serial: 177a Receipt Date: .....  
 Original from: Summary of case of Charlotte ARNHEIM Under Ref.: ..... Dated: 10.5.40.  
 Extracted on: 23.3.65 by: WAO Section: D.3.

Extract from summary of case of Charlotte ARNHEIM mentioning PLAYFAIR.

---

(Hans ARNHEIM was a spy convicted by a French Court and executed in Tunisia in 1940)

Reports in "Rebus Politicis".

..... December 1939 when ARNHEIM's flat was raided by the Police.

.....

Among ARNHEIM's papers have been found a series of accounts referred to as expenses "in Rebus Politicis" extending from January 1935 to January 1939 which he recovered from von GOERSCHEN.

.....

Examples of items in these accounts may be given as follows:-

.....

<u>March 1937:</u>	Cockburn, Playfair, Treasury	
	Commander Wragge	£3 5 3

.....

.....

Extract from same summary re letters sent on behalf of Mrs. ARNHEIM on her internment and application for release ment. PLAYFAIR.

.....

Her other supporters include:-

R.E.W. PLAYFAIR, of the Treasury who has enlisted the support of Miss Jennifer WILLIAMS, Sir Alexander Maxwell's secretary. His name appears in the extracts which have been given from ARNHEIM's accounts "in Rebus Politicis".

.....

\*If the original is in the file of an individual include the name of the file owner

WJ/WSE  
12/65

EXTRACT

87

Extract for File No.: PF. 604,861 Name: Edward PLAYFAIR  
 Original File No.: \* L.255(14) Vol.: 2 Serial: 93a Receipt Date:  
 Original from: Home Office File Under Ref.: Dated: 6.2.40.  
 Extracted on: 23.3.65 by: WAO Section: D.3.

Extract from Home Office File No. 674 (Hans ARNHEIM)  
 re letters sent on behalf of Mrs. ARNHEIM who had  
 been interned ment. PLAYFAIR.

(Hans ARNHEIM was a spy convicted by a French Court  
 and executed in Tunis in 1940).

.....

27.1.40. Letter from E.W. PLAYFAIR re Mrs. ARNHEIM  
 and on behalf of her application for release  
 from internment.

.....

include the name of the file owner.

DZ/WO  
73/8/65

## EXTRACT

7c

Extract for File No.: PF. 604,861..... Name : Edward PLAYFAIR.....  
 Original File No.\*: L.255(14)..... Vol.: 1..... Serial: 78a..... Receipt Date : .....

Original from: Home Office File..... Under Ref : ....., Dated: 8.1.40.....  
 Extracted on: 30.3.65..... by : WAO..... Section : D.3.....

Extract from Home Office File No. 674 (Hans ARNHEIM)  
 re letter sent on behalf of Mrs. ARNHEIM who had been  
 interned ment. PLAYFAIR. Her husband, Hans ARNHEIM  
 was a spy convicted by a French Court and executed in  
 Tunis in 1940.

---

.....

14.12.39. Eddie Playfair "a very bright principal in the Treasury"  
 to "Jennifer". Asks addressee to assist in securing  
 Mrs. ARNHEIM's release.

.....

FISCHER WILLIAMS, <sup>secretary</sup>  
 to Sir Alexander  
 Maxwell.

DB/WAO  
 20730



P A APP

INCOMING DOCUMENT.

Enclosures.

received from S.C.O. Heston.

on 10 NOV 1939

at 11-30 a.m. p.m.

Senders Reference (or File No.) HA/50/133.

Schedule No. ~~229~~ 230

76  
~~1276~~

Delivered to D.4B.

on 10 NOV 1939

at 3-30 a.m. p.m.

Passed for action to

on

at

a.m. p.m.

R for former papers or traces

Herewith or Out to

MORGAN Chas L.

identical with  
- L292a(1)  
14a 40x

BIC 16/12

PLAYFAIR E W

PF 41490 v.1.  
ident: LEHMANN  
61a 65 66 68a

✓

73 St James Street

Add of A.V. PLAYFAIR

yes

PF 46349 GODMAN

✓

NOTA  
(also other mentions in minute sheet  
of PF 46349  
53a P.A.I. Playfair  
106a Playfair  
110a Playfair  
27/7/44

Executive Instructions.

P.A. Section Date

Filed in PF 41490 LEHMANN V.2 as Enclosure No. 1276

by

S.J.W.  
22.12.39

Carded Names Subjects Places

~~1276~~ 7b

D.2

This report from Heston may be of interest to you.

D4(c)  
10.11.39.

(Initialled) Commander Burton

D.4(c)

Noted, thank you. Forwarded to Admiralty for information.

D.2.  
11.11.39.

(Initialled) Commander Bardwell.

SECRET

HA/SO/133.

76  
~~1276~~

SUBJECT: REPORT: Charles L. MORGAN.

DAB

Lieut, Colonel J.H.Adam, C.I.E., O.B.E.,  
Room 427,  
War Office,  
Whitehall, S.W.1.

Sir,

"

Amongst the passengers arriving at this airport from Paris at 16.35 hrs. today was Mr. Charles L. MORGAN. My attention was first drawn to this passenger by the fact that he completed the routine landing card showing as his address in the United Kingdom "Naval Intelligence, Division 19, Admiralty". This passenger was also accompanied by Mr. Edward Wilder PLAYFAIR, a British Civil Servant, of 73 St. James's Street, S.W.1.

A few minutes after these passengers had completed the necessary formalities in the traffic hall, I noticed lying against the Customs barrier one brown leather despatch case with Crown insignia and one brown leather attache case, left completely unattended. I assumed these to be the property of the above gentlemen and took them into safe custody. Ten minutes later, Messrs. Morgan and Playfair returned to the traffic hall and expressed considerable concern at their loss. The position was explained to them, the cases returned and a receipt obtained.

"

*W. C. M. S.*

C.M.S.

Security Control Office,  
Heston Airport,  
Hounslow, Mdx.

November 9th. 1939.



## EXTRACT.

70

Extract for File No.: PF 604861 Name: PLAYFAIR  
 Original in File No.: PF 45720 (KAPP) Serial: 16b Vol 11 Receipt Date: -  
 Original from: Intercept letter Under Ref: - Dated: 18.6.1937  
 Extracted on: 10.11.52 by: RCH Section: B.I.E.

Extract from intercept letter from 'Quentin' to Mrs. Yvonne KAPP, (Communist),  
 54, Great Percy Street, London W.C.1., mentioning PLAYFAIR.

Dearest Bimbo,

Elizabeth writes to say she is sending Picasso's programme and asks me to thank him for it which I have done. Eddy PLAYFAIR writes that H.M. Govt. prevents him being of use to you for which I am sorry.

Eight perspiring proletarians have arrived with a ? kiln and have to be attended to.

Love in haste,

Quentin. [BELL] - brother of Julian BELL and  
 son of Vanessa BELL. Now  
 Professor of Art at Sussex University.

P.S. the ?drawing is given it seems.

This letter is clearly in connection with a meeting at the  
 Albert Hall on 24 June 1937 organised by the National Joint Committee  
 of Spanish Relief - clearly strongly communist in flavour.

RCH  
 123  
 29/4/70

RCH  
 10.11.52

6a.

THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT  
RETAINED IN DEPARTMENT  
UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF  
THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958.

Copy for P.F. 604,861.

Original in P.F. 41,490 v. 1. (LEHMANN). Min. 65.

---

4a

S. 3. a.

Reference minute 62 and 63a. The handwriting on the passport application of Dr. Ernest PLAYFAIR does not correspond with that of the letter to LEHMANN (61a) sent out from 57, Gloucester Terrace, the address of Dr. PLAYFAIR. Could you ascertain if there are any passport papers for a son of this man, with the initial E ?

S. 9.

23.6.34.

(signed) P.R.

*See front of file*

R. 5. DEW  
7.11.52.

*DEW  
8.11.52.*

Copy for P.F. 604,861.  
Original in P.F. 41,490 v. 1. (LEHMANN). Min. 62.  
-----

S. 3. a.

Please obtain passport papers of Dr. Ernest FLAYFAIR  
of 57 Gloucester Terrace, W.2., vide 61a.

S. 9.  
11.6.34. (signed) P.R.

R.5. DEW  
7.11.52.

*2a*

*✓ DEW  
8.11.52*

R. 5. DEW  
7.11.52.

COPY

For: P.F. 604,861 PLAYFAIR.

Original filed in: P.F. 41,490 v. 1. (LEHMAN). Ser. 61a. Dated: 3.6.34.  
Int. letter to John LEHMANN from Edward PLAYFAIR.



PLEASE FORWARD



R. J. F. Lehmann Esq.  
Fieldhead  
Bowme End  
Bucks

S432 B

TELEPHONE BY  
8701 PADDINGTON.

57, GLOUCESTER TERRACE,  
HYDE PARK, W. 2.

3 June 1934

My dear John,

Many thanks for your p.c. from Kiev - it made me feel very guilty for not writing to you before. But I have been very busy, & still am, if it comes to that, so this will only be a short letter. I am off in four days' time to Yugoslavia, Albania & Greece, where I am taking a rather more energetic holiday than usual with Pat Roberts - a kind of earnestness

S432 B

cease for the most part.

One thing I ought to have done before - give you the address of my S.S. man. I told you about him, I think, & if you're in Berlin, I'd like for you to meet him. He's an extremely nice boy, in the organization of the Hitler Jugend, I think, & an economist: he is interesting as being one of the extreme radicals of the party.

S432 B

So that you shouldn't be committed,

2

TELEPHONE BY  
8701 PADDINGTON.

57, GLOUCESTER TERRACE,  
HYDE PARK, W. 2.

if it was inconvenient to you, by being known as a Communist & he shouldn't be committed, if it would compromise him, by seeing a Communist, I told him that I would like to send a Communist to see him, but didn't mention names. He said nothing would please him better, & that if he was too busy, he'd provide a friend to show you all the works. I hope so you can go either as

S432 B

my Communist friend, or as another non-Merxist one, as suits you best.

His name & address are:—  
Gert H. Schlotz Schlottmann  
Berlin-Lichterfelde I  
Drakestr. 79.

Nothing much is happening here I think: all's just as you left it. Mind you let me know when you're back - I shall be back on July 6.

Love

E

S432 B

Edward PLATFAIR.

\*PF604861/V1\*