

PF 604582

V4

FILE CLOSED

B L U N D E N, JAMES

PF 604582

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HISTORICAL

S Form 924A

W
408

SEE ALSO LIST INSIDE COVER

Serial No	Star Designation	Date	Serial No	Star Designation	Date	Serial No	Star Designation	Date

KV2 / 4703

S. 960 Edn2

PF 604582

/ V4

216.

1.8.56.

Re-imposing P.O.

216.

217.

2.8.56.

Draft Examination of the Espionage Case Against Anthony BLUNT.

217a

1.8.56.

Telecheck.

217b.

218.

D.1.

Please see at 217a a draft summary on the BLUNT case. I have not attempted to give an extended account of BLUNT's record and all the ramifications of the investigation after BURGESS' disappearance. This is merely an attempt to put the final interrogation into its setting. The summary of information relating to sources in British Intelligence and the interrogation itself is based on your notes at 177a and 207a.

2. Many of BLUNT's reactions after the flight of BURGESS are open to diverse interpretations, which at the present state of our knowledge have equal validity. In an attempt to be dispassionate I have therefore omitted references to these. In cases of this kind there seems to me the temptation to make the assumption that BLUNT was a spy, then draw an adverse deduction from some incident to fit this assumption, and then use this deduction to show that BLUNT was a spy.

3. I have shown this draft to Ronnie Reed.

Neither had any particular comments except commented that BLUNT's delay in coming forward with a statement which he finally did ten days after the flight of BURGESS might be sinister. I have examined that part of the case again and BLUNT's reactions while consistent with his being a spy are equally consistent with his having now told all the truth. His initial hesitation indeed seems to have been due rather to apprehensions about the moral issues than to espionage.

4. I should be grateful if you could examine this to see whether you think it suitable for further distribution, e.g. the Foreign Office or S.L.O. Washington, is required.

D.H. Whyte
D.H. Whyte.

D.1.A.
14.8.56.

5.8.56.

Telecheck.

218b.

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ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION
3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS
ACT 1958
December 2022

223.

^{can}
^{23.8}
~~D.D.G.~~

You may care to glance at 217a which is the draft write-up on BLUNT which I am proposing to send to It has been slightly amended as a result of my interview with BLUNT last week an account of which is filed at 221a which you may also care to skim through.

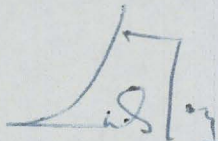
2. I will take up the point with Captain Liddell next time I see him as he may well be able to remember whether or not BLUNT did mention this dinner party conversation to him which, if true, disposes of the major discrepancy between BLUNT's and REES's testimony. I do not think, however, that we should hold up the issue of our report to until this is resolved.

3. BLUNT's introduction of [REVAI] into the conversation is tiresome. Originally we had planned for Mr. Whyte to conduct the interrogation of REVAI. I feel, however, that if we stick to this plan BLUNT might well accuse the Office in general and myself in particular of bad faith and double dealing. As regards myself I am of course completely indifferent, but I do feel there is some slight advantage in having BLUNT moderately co-operative.

4. I feel, therefore, that I will have to interview REVAI myself stating firmly at the start that I am not in the least concerned with his naturalisation which is entirely a matter for the Home Office but am only concerned with his contacts with BURGESS. If BLUNT is back from Italy when the interview takes place, I think it might be politic to telephone to him immediately before the interview to say that it is taking place.

5. C.I. might care to note in paragraph 11 of 221a the travel control which as far as I know only operates for members of the Royal Household!

D.I.
21.8.56.



Courtenay Young.

224.

^{DI/DHW}
~~D.I.~~

I agree that Mr. Whyte has done a first-class job in his note at 217a. No doubt the only course open to us is to end with suspension of judgment as to BLUNT's guilt and I would not alter Mr. Whyte's conclusions at all; but for my part I cannot help feeling - and I think you agree - that the interrogation of 15 May 1956 and your interview on 17 August have gone some way to lighten the burden of suspicion against him. As a record however - and that is the main purpose of the note - it will stand very well as it is.

I also agree that there is advantage in keeping BLUNT co-operative and that we should not put ourselves in a position in which he could reasonably accuse us of bad faith. Is there any objection to telling BLUNT of the intention to interview REVAI, and the purpose of doing so, before fixing the interview?

REVAI (18)
800: TOA

Passive

REVAI would surely in any case consult BLUNT, if he is in this country, as soon as he hears that we want to see him.

G.R. Mitchell

D.D.G.
24.8.56.

G.R. Mitchell.

225.

28.8.56. Summary of espionage case against BLUNT

225a

226;

30.8.56. To [redacted] enclosing copy of 225a.

226a.

227.

31.8.56. Extract from int. letter to BURGESS from Mrs. BASSETT.

227a

228.

28.9.56. T.C. material

228a

229.

5.10.56. T.C. material

229a

230.

5.10.56. T.C. material

230a

231.

8.10.56. T.C. material.

231a

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3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS
ACT 1958
DECEMBER 2022

		232.	
16.10.56.	T.C. material		232a
		233.	
16.10.56.	T.C. material		233a
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17.10.56.	T.C. material.		234a
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18.10.56.	T.C. material		235a
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18.10.56.	T.C. material		236a
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19.10.56.	T.C. material		237a
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242.

24.10.56. T.C. material

242a

243.

26.10.56. T.C. material

243a

244.

27.10.56. T.C. material

244a

245.

27.10.56. T.C. material

245a

246.

30.10.56. T.C. material.

246a

247.

30.10.56. T.C. material

247a

'FILE CLOSED'

'FILE CLOSED'

SECRET

NAME: BLUNDEN

T.C. No.: 2993

Tel. No.: WEL 1074

Date: 30.10.56.

Responsible Section: D.1.



*est. to see
P.A. Bugers
Copy on Blunt*

Incoming call from Mrs. BASSETT to tell BLUNDEN that when GUY had been on the telephone to her, he had said that all the letters to him from Mrs. ROTHSCHILD were in a dispatch case in the basement at the Reform Club. He had told her to get them. She had telephoned Mr. BELL yesterday but M.I.5. had got them all.

B. Now the only case that I can remember at all there was rather mysterious. He left - I can't understand - I don't think it's the case. He left a brief case -

Mrs. B. That's it - a blue one with GUY BURGESS on it.

B. Oh, no! Well, I don't know anything about that. There was a black - a brief case not - this was a dispatch case, was it?

Mrs. B. As far as I can make out. Anyhow, when I rang up Mr. BELL he knew all about it.

B. He did, I see. There was a brief case that he left, saying rather mysteriously to Mr. BELL that either he or I would collect it. And I did and there was certainly nothing of that kind in there.

Mrs. B. You did collect and there was nothing like that in it. No, this is one that Mr. BELL told me M.I.5. had collected it - at least the Foreign Office.

B. Yes, then I don't know anything about that one. Oh, I see.

Mrs. B. I asked if I could have it - I said my son had rung me up because I thought he'd be rather suspicious - I said my son had rung me up and asked me to collect this case. I didn't say why. He said the Foreign Office had taken it a very long time ago. I said I thought that as it was in the basement, it might be safe.

B. Yes. No, I don't know anything about that at all. The other wasn't a blue one and didn't have that in it.

Mrs. B. Was it in the basement, the other?

B. No I don't think so. It was just left with Mr. BELL, I think.

Mrs. B. What was it - letters too?

B. Very largely it was old newspapers and a certain number of letters. As far as I can remember quite recent things.

Mrs. B. I was wondering why you - well, you managed to get that before M.I. - before they went to the Club.

B. Er - well, I ~~first~~ fetched it yes on those grounds. I did, in fact, have to hand it over in the end.

Mrs. BASSETT said she had tried to get on to DRIBERG to tell him about this but he had left already - he was taking more things out to GUY. BLUNDEN said he had heard something new which rather confirmed his story. He then told her about ANDY REVAI's story concerning Mrs. ROTHSCHILD and GUY. Mrs. BASSETT had recalled since that GUY had told her about it but she did not think it could have gone on for very long because GUY was always very short of money. They then discussed, briefly, the situation in Hungary, Poland and the Middle East. Mrs. BASSETT said DRIBERG expected to be back at the end of the week and had promised to come and see her. She would give BLUNDEN any news.

09.50.

JW.

SECRET

246a

NAME: BLUNDEN

T.C. No.: 2990

Tel. No.: WEL 1388

Date: 30.10.56.

Responsible Section: D.1.



*P.A. Byers
Blunden
Cary*

Incoming call to BLUNDEN from TESS ROTHSCHILD to say she was not coming to London today after all and so would not be joining him for tea. BLUNDEN thanked her for letting him know but he had forgotten about it anyway.

B. No repercussions were there?

T. No, absolutely none.

B. Thank God.

T. And really you know it's not so bad. I mean when you think what they could have said.

B. I know.

BLUNDEN then told her about his conversation with Mrs. BASSETT earlier this morning concerning the despatch case containing letters from Mrs. ROTHSCHILD, said to have been left in the Reform Club by GUY and now in the possession of "the office." He also told her about his conversation with ANDY REVAI. (See call ~~at~~ on 26.10.56. on line 2993.) BLUNDEN thought this did not prove that the story was true but it proved that it was not an invention at the last moment. It was conceivable that GUY would have told REVAI and not him because REVAI had met Mrs. R. several times and they had talked about Hungarian affairs. BLUNDEN only knew her very slightly. He repeated that he was very pleased the press had not been worrying TESS - he had thought they would be inundated by telephone calls. They agreed that, judging by the letters, everyone was bored with the whole thing.

T. Well, that's what one hoped in a way. I mean once there's no mystery, that's that. Let's hope it's all finished. Poor old GUY. I must say I read - I didn't read yesterday but I read this morning and it does give a slightly false impression of his life in the Foreign Office.

B. Er - yes. I didn't - well, of course.

T. But still, never mind, I mean he comes out as so nice, so noble, so sober.

B. (laughing) High minded, pure character.

He then reported that DRIBERG had returned to Moscow this morning. He sent his love to VICTOR.

10.53.

JW.

SECRET

245aw

NAME: BLUNDEN

T.C. No.: 890

Tel. No.: WEL 1388

Date: 26.10.56.

Responsible Section: D.1.



Outgoing call from BLUNDEN to TESS ROTHSCHILD to tell her that he had just had a slightly incoherent message, indirectly, from Mrs. B. (ELSA had been to see her this afternoon to return the page proofs.) GUY had telephoned Mrs. B. and she had told him how upset VICTOR very rightly was. GUY now wanted to write a letter of explanation and apology to VICTOR. TESS agreed that it would be a bad idea. She was, however, very pleased that the worst sentence had been omitted. BLUNDEN asked what was that. TESS said that Mrs. ROTHSCHILD had said that the Bank had lost 40% of her fortune. She wondered whether it would be left out of the book also. BLUNDEN could not remember - he had read the proofs so very quickly. He would ask Mrs. B. to cope with that one; she wanted very much to help over personal things. BLUNDEN asked if VICTOR was very much upset. TESS said, not really, they had persuaded him that on the whole it was almost entirely true and he would just have to face it. He hated the thought of the family being disgraced but she had pointed out that it was in the company of the Foreign Office, CHURCHILL and EDEN. BLUNDEN thought the whole thing had been "curiously offensively worded." He had not seen them but he gathered in yesterday's Mail there had been a series of letters rather saying - "To hell, we are bored with this. Why make all this fuss? We've heard too much about it." He considered this quite interesting. TESS thanked him for keeping her up to date with the happenings.

16.45.

Outgoing call from BLUNDEN to Mrs. BASSETT, who told him that GUY had telephoned this morning and she had told him that the article had annoyed VICTOR. GUY could not understand it. "He said it puts Mrs. R. in a very good light and puts him in a bad light because she refused to settle her capital abroad when he had advised her to. She was worried because he had said he would write to VICTOR. She had not taken that in until it was too late. BLUNDEN told her about his call with TESS. Mrs. B. would telegraph GUY and tell him not to write. She added that GUY had told her that TOM might be going out there again next week. She had noticed that the sentence about Mrs. ROTHSCHILD's saying the Bank had lost 40% of her fortune was in the book. When returning the proofs, she would say that it was not in the articles and she hoped that it meant it would be left out of the book. She repeated that she could not bear these things happening - VICTOR had been so good to GUY.

18.03.

JW.

SECRET

2440

NAME: BLUNDEN

T.C. No.: 2993

Tel. No.: WEL 1074

Date: 26.10.56.

Responsible Section: D.1.

D. H. W. ^{D.H.W.} 357x

Incoming call from REVAI to apologise to BLUNDEN for not attending his opening of the Picasso Exhibition last evening. ROBIN had told him all about it. (REVAI had influenza.) REVAI then spoke about the events in Hungary and how excited he was about it. BLUNDEN had not seen what had happened today at all. REVAI said it could lead to a full scale Russian occupation but he hoped it would lead to a compromise and the request, as in Poland, for a gradual Russian evacuation. REVAI then complimented BLUNDEN on his lecture last Tuesday evening. He hoped to attend the next one on Tuesday. He added that they must meet one day in order to discuss the Daily Mail articles. He noticed that BLUNDEN had not managed to induce DRIBERG to omit the ROTHSCHILD thing.

Exct Revai

- R. Actually that is what I used to believe. That was from Mrs. CHARLES ROTHSCHILD personally.
- B. What that he got the money?
- R. Yes.
- B. Really. Did he tell you that?
- R. Yes.
- B. That's interesting. I've never heard that.
- R. Yes that he advised her, you see. I remember the whole thing quite clearly. The whole thing came up because I was talking about her being a Hungarian and actually she is the only member of the family whom I ever met. I said how I liked her and so on. When he said what a wonderful woman she was - it was many years ago - and how intelligent and clever she was and he had had his first job with her, or something like that.
- B. Oh, well then, we may all be wrong. That's interesting - I had never heard that.
- R. It was many years ago but it came out in connection with her. I can more or less reconstruct it in my mind; of course, I can't remember the details.
- B. That is interesting. All I knew was that he met her and they got on well and he introduced KATZ to her. There may be more truth in it than I thought.
- R. He must have some letters, or something. Don't you think so?
- B. He may have had.
- R. Otherwise, I don't think he would have risked it.
- B. Well, he can't have them - he won't have them with him.

Exct. Bygers & Rothschild

R. Well with MUM.

B. Well, it's very doubtful. Much more likely with M.I.5.

R. laughed. Equally possible, yes.

REVAI went on to say that he disliked and objected to the permanent boasting which made the whole figure most unpleasant, also the extreme vagueness and holiness of the author. I made the whole thing more suspicious than the other way round. BLUNDEN agreed that it was "too, too sweet." There were one or two details which just did not fit at all. They decided that there was nothing they could do about it. BLUNDEN was afraid a whole lot of political dirt would come out in the later stages but a lot of that was rather funny. Nevertheless, the mud and stink was a little less than he thought it would be. REVAI was pleased that FLANAGAN's name had not been mentioned today although he was alluded to indirectly. They then reverted to REVAI's health.

19.46.

JW.

SECRET

30/x

243w

NAME: BLUNDEN

T.C. No.: 2990

Tel. No.: WEL 1388

Date: 25.10.56.

Responsible Section: D.1.



*P. A. Burgess
East R. Thackel
Copy*

Incoming call to BLUNDEN from Mrs. BASSETT to tell him that she had received a letter and the page proofs from TOM DRIBERG. She thought there was very little that required his attention. They discussed when he would collect the proofs - Mrs. B. would have to send it back on Saturday. It was arranged that he would go round about 5 today. Mrs. B. said TOM had written :- "GUY assured me this morning that VICTOR never knew about his transaction with Mrs. R. This is obviously just possible; I don't know what to think." She repeated that there was very little she could see to find fault with. She had not read the political part because she would not know anything about it. She had read the rest in half an hour.

12.30.

JW.

SECRET

① C.T.Y. *last*
 ② P.A. on Blunden
 copy on Howard
 242a

NAME: BLUNDEN

T.C. No.: 2993

Tel. No.: WEL 1074

Date: 24.10.56.

Responsible Section: D.1.

84 OCT 1956

Outgoing call from BLUNDEN to GRO 1146 to BRIAN (HOWARD.)

- H. It's this. I wanted to give you my address. I've taken a flat in London for two months - I'm going to see some Specialists about my lung.
- B. Oh dear!
- H. And I wanted to see you sometime. It's not very urgent, it's just about SAM and one or two things.
- B. Yes. Sometime next week? Can I ring you - are you going to be there over the week-end?
- H. Yes, I shan't go away this week-end.
- B. Well, look, can I ring you up then and we'll try and fix something up for next week. This week is absolute hell. I'm really at the end of my tether.
- H. Yes. Well, you've obviously got my number and the address in 9, Curzon Place and the flat is number 8.
- B. Good. Well, that will be fine BRIAN. How are you? Does that mean you're not - ?
- H. I'm very well apart from this wretched thing which I have got to have looked at.
- B. I am sorry.
- H. And you?
- B. I'm very well - rather jaded just at the immediate moment - just had the impact of term. And SAM - how's SAM?
- H. All right my dear.
- B. Good. Well, I'll ring you at the week-end and we will make some kind of arrangement.
- H. Yes, we will indeed.
- B. Good. Good-bye.

10.34.

JW.

SECRET

241a

NAME: BLUNDEN

T.C. No.: 2991

Tel. No.: WEL 1389

Date: 23.10.56.

Responsible Section: D.1.



Incoming call to BLUNDEN from Mrs. BASSETT, who was concerned about the letter from MICHAEL BERRY in the Daily Mail today. In ~~his~~ it he had written that GUY applied for a job, had been asked to submit an example of his recent work but this had been found to be slovenly. GUY had left the Country before he could be so informed. He had also added that even if the Daily Telegraph were to maintain a post of diplomatic advisor, it's offer to a diplomat of the rank of Second Secretary would have seemed unlikely. They agreed that this was not absolutely true - MICHAEL had offered him some sort of job. In substance and in feeling, MICHAEL's statement was untrue. Mrs. BASSETT would telephone DRIBERG and ask him to tell GUY about this. He must get his facts right otherwise there would be numerous contradictions which would not be good for the story, or GUY.

09.25.

① C.T. V. H. W.
② P.A. on Burgers

Incoming call from BRIAN HOWARD for BLUNDEN. (ELSA SCHEERER) said he was out but was expected back about 4 p.m. He left his number - GRO 1146 - and said he wished to speak to BLUNDEN rather urgently on a personal matter. HOWARD explained that he had been abroad and asked for his private telephone number of the flat in Portman Square. (ELSA) was afraid she could not give him that. She would, however, give BLUNDEN the message.

15.29.

JW.

SECRET

240w

NAME: BLUNDEN

T.C. No.: 2990

Tel. No.: WEL 1388

Date: 20.10.56.

Responsible Section: D.1.



Outgoing call from BLUNDEN to REG 6050 for Mr. COURTNEY YOUNG. There was no reply from his room. He then suggested Mr. MITCHELL. There was no reply from his room either. BLUNDEN said he would telephone Mr. YOUNG at home.

10.50.

Outgoing call from BLUNDEN to TOM DRIBERG. He told him that he had had another word with VICTOR and he was grateful for the suggestion of a footnote. However, although he still maintained that the whole story was awry, he would prefer it to stand as it was, without comment. He then told DRIBERG about Mrs. BASSETT's request concerning the Daily Mail's having called GUY a thief in a previous article. DRIBERG said he had got the Mail to add an Editorial footnote withdrawing the accusation. BLUNDEN thanked him - that was very good indeed.

11.22.

*P.A. - Blunt
Copy on RSThchild
22/x*

Outgoing call from BLUNDEN to Mrs. BASSETT to tell her that he had spoken to TOM DRIBERG and the Daily Mail were going to publish a denial about the Dartmouth business. Mrs. B. asked what was happening about the VICTOR incidents. BLUNDEN gave her the latest news concerning this and told her that GUY would be telephoning DRIBERG on Wednesday morning. DRIBERG had cabled him telling him that VICTOR denied the story concerning his Mother and would he supply further evidence. Mrs. B. said GUY was going to ring her up soon and asked what she should say to him if he rang before Wednesday - she did have a little influence.

B. Well, I think if you could say that VICTOR is very distressed about this and that his recollection of it is that there was no question of regular employment or regular payment.

Mrs. B. And I will tell GUY that it would only do him more harm if VICTOR - I needn't say that VICTOR probably wouldn't do it - but if VICTOR put a denial in the papers.

B. I think not so much VICTOR but the family very well might.

Mrs. B. That is what I meant. I'll say that it will do his - the whole of his - nobody will trust TOM over anything if there is a denial put in the paper about one thing.

B. It'll cast a great deal of doubt, yes. I think it would be a very good idea indeed, if you could say that.

Mrs. B. I hate people being distressed over anything.

B. Well, VICTOR ~~is~~ is rather distressed over this. GUY is going to ring you this week?

Eaton Bugeas

Mrs. B. said GUY had telephoned last Wednesday - he could not write because of his bad arm. (She went into details about this again!) He had said he would ring again a week later and so he might telephone TOM first. She explained that a 'phone call had to be booked the day before. GUY usually spoke to her for 10 minutes. BLUNDEN should tell VICTOR that she would do her best. She then spoke about last night's television programme. TOM had been very nice and there had been some awfully good photographs of GUY. TOM had been very nice about DONALD. He had said he had not seen him and so would not say anything about him. He did not want to say anything about anyone he had not seen. BLUNDEN had not managed to see the programme. He thought DRIBERG was being awfully tricky all round. He was being clever in only allowing Mrs. B. to see the page proofs when nothing much could be altered and in any case, by that time, it would all be in the articles. Mrs. B. thought she had been very stupid not asking for earlier copies; it had never occurred to her. Nevertheless, she would let BLUNDEN know when she got the page proofs. She repeated what she would say to GUY should he telephone in the near future. She could exaggerate as well as he could. BLUNDEN suggested that she had inherited it from him.

18.35.

Outgoing call from BLUNDEN to VICTOR (ROTHSCHILD, who must have telephoned BLUNDEN at HONEY's last evening.) to tell him that he had passed on his message to DRIBERG. He also told him what Mrs. BASSETT intended to do should GUY telephone her before Wednesday. VICTOR thanked him. (He did not sound unduly concerned about the matter.) He asked whether BLUNDEN had telephoned COURTNEY. BLUNDEN told him about it and the matter (the P.M.'s letter) was in hand. VICTOR then asked about Art matters, about which he had written BLUNDEN.

18.40.

JW.

SECRET

239a

NAME: BLUNDEN

T.C. No.: 2991

Tel. No.: WEL 1389

Date: 19.10.56.
20.10.56.

Responsible Section: D.1.



Outgoing call from BLUNDEN to TESS ROTHSCHILD to tell her that he was dining with HONEY this evening, should she wish to talk to him again about DRIBERG's articles. He gave her HONEY's telephone number.

18.05.

20.10.56.

Outgoing call from BLUNDEN to REG 6050 to the Duty Officer. He gave his name and said he was formerly of this Organisation. He wished to get into touch with COURTNEY YOUNG and asked for his number "in Dorking, or wherever it is." He was given the Reigate number.

11.00.

*P.A. on Blunt
20/2
22/2*

Outgoing call from BLUNDEN to COURTNEY YOUNG. He apologised for bothering him on a Saturday morning and said he was probably bringing coals to Newcastle but he had one thing slightly on his mind.

B. You do know, I imagine, don't you that DRIBERG is going to publish - I imagine in the articles but certainly in the book - the letter to GUY from the P.M. in Washington?

Y. Aha! I knew it was in the air because the thing was submitted.

B. Yes that is what I thought but knowing DRIBERG a little, it seemed to me that he was quite capable of submitting things incomplete. Anyhow, my only worry was that presumably, if this is happening, it would be kind if someone would tip the P.M. off. I imagine the office will have done anything that is necessary.

Y. I think that is in hand. It is extremely kind of you to ring up.

B. It is very unpleasant.

Y. Have you been having trouble over this?

B. No. I've been talking to him over one or two things connected with VICTOR but I think he is determined to make as much mess as he can.

Y. He is not a character I know. I worked (together) Fleet Street. I knew him very slightly then.

He again thanked BLUNDEN for telephoning.

11.06.

SECRET

T.C. No.: 2991

Date: 19.10.56.

NAME: BLUNDEN

Tel. No.: WEL 1389

Responsible Section: D.1.

Copy to P.A. on Buyers
Copy to Rothschild.
238A



Incoming call to BLUNDEN from Mrs. BASSETT asking if he had got on to VICTOR yet. BLUNDEN had and he was rather worried about the whole business. Mrs. BASSETT agreed - in the Daily Mail today, it said that he (GUY) was financial advisor to a big banking family. Mrs. BASSETT felt that she could not bring enough pressure to bear but wondered if the ROTHSCHILDS could do something about it. BLUNDEN said VICTOR thought the family would be very upset and probably prosecute. BLUNDEN was going to try and see DRIBERG to ask him to leave it out. ~~SMX~~ He asked for DRIBERG's number, which Mrs. BASSETT gave him, (HOL 8696.) VICTOR had agreed that BLUNDEN should tackle him and to stay out of it himself. Mrs. BASSETT did not want to upset VICTOR - he had been such a good friend to GUY. BLUNDEN told her that VICTOR denied the whole story. Mrs. BASSETT said she did not blame DRIBERG entirely, he could not have invented the story; GUY must have told him. They agreed that there was an element of truth in it because VICTOR had given him some money after his advise over Rolls Royce shares. He had also introduced to Mrs. ROTHSCHILD the man (KATZ) who had later advised her but that was another story. BLUNDEN then told her the story, which she had not heard, concerning WEITZMAN. VICTOR had said that there was no truth in that one either. He had asked his sister, MIRIAM, who had been very close to him and particularly over political matters, and she ~~denied~~ had no recollection of GUY coming into it at all. Mrs. BASSETT said, "we do know that GUY exaggerates." BLUNDEN agreed and was sure that that was what had happened. Mrs. BASSETT had had a letter from DRIBERG in which he had written - "I am glad to say that after a few anxious hours, we had word today from the authorities who have cleared the book under the official secrets act, except for a few trivial emendations." He had been to the Army and Navy Stores and still could not find the Churchill book. He had been down to see Mr. DODDS, who had said there was nothing against GUY during the Eton period. BLUNDEN asked if the question of the EDEN letter was irrevocable. Mrs. BASSETT was afraid so - she was very sorry and wondered what she could do. BLUNDEN was worried but thought nothing could be done now DRIBERG had the letter. He was worried about the effect it would have in America. Mrs. BASSETT could not think why the Foreign Office or M.I.5 had not stopped it. BLUNDEN pointed out that they could not say it was an official secret, they might have said it was politically unwise but DRIBERG might like that - like discrediting EDEN. He was doing purely for political intrigue. Mrs. BASSETT repeated that she was sorry but she did not feel there would be a war because of it. She had told DRIBERG she did not want it published. BLUNDEN did not think that would help - he thought DRIBERG a very unscrupulous man. He asked if he had promised to let Mrs. BASSETT see what he was going to print in the Daily Mail in advance. Mrs. BASSETT said, no. They agreed that that had been a very clever move on his part - the harm would be done before she saw the book proofs. GUY had seen most of the book and was very pleased with it. She was so worried about any of GUY's friends getting bothered. BLUNDEN said if DRIBERG was telling the truth at all, it looked as if he was being careful about GUY's friends. Mrs. BASSETT said the Daily Mail had promised

to print an apology for calling GUY a thief in the past. She asked BLUNDEN to tell DRIBERG that this should be done now that the book was to be published. BLUNDEN would telephone her when he had seen DRIBERG.

10.04.

Outgoing call from BLUNDEN to TOM DRIBERG asking if he could see him during the next day or two. He had had a word with VICTOR and there were considerable problems arising over the two stories - they seemed to be almost wholly untrue. DRIBERG told him that he had cut out completely, the story about WEITZMAN - he had thought it might embarrass VICTOR personally. BLUNDEN said it was the old story; GUY had taken a little incident and blown it up enormously. However, it was a good thing that it was out. Regarding the case of VICTOR's mother, DRIBERG asked if it was provably untrue. BLUNDEN thought not, only to the extent that VICTOR was sure there was no question of a regularly paid job. DRIBERG knew that GUY embroidered and elaborated but when he had been able to check things, he had usually turned out to be basically correct. They had agreed that VICTOR had given him some money as a result of an unexpected profit made from some Rolls Royce shares, due to GUY's advice. Later, DRIBERG said, GUY was staying with them and talking at the dinner table about International politics. "For instance he gave her a bit of advice about Latin American Railways, which ROTHSCHILD owned and he said: 'Well, you know that the Railways in that Country are going to be Nationalised very shortly, I think you ought to clear out of them.' Their City office said; 'Nonsense, that is mere propaganda.' But it happened as GUY had predicted. As a consequence of that, I think, she said would he write her a report once a month - a private, personal, political report surveying the International political scene and it's possible repercussions on finance. Which he agreed to do and she paid him £100 a month." That was the part which BLUNDEN believed to be untrue. He agreed that GUY had certainly met Mrs. ROTHSCHILD and she liked him and no doubt that kind of conversation had taken place. There was the second stage when GUY had introduced her to the sinister but able character, ROLF KATZ. He had been taken on as regular, paid advisor. DRIBERG agreed that GUY had not told him about that. It was too late to do anything about it; the ROTHSCHILDS could deny it but it was already mentioned, although not with the name mentioned, in today's Daily Mail. He could possibly add a footnote saying there was a conflict of evidence. BURGESS assured him ^{it} was true but Lord ROTHSCHILD said he had no knowledge of it at all. BLUNDEN thought that might help. DRIBERG said GUY had telephoned him on several occasions and he was ringing again next Wednesday morning. He ^{was} ~~was~~ tax him with this again. He was sorry but in so much as he was writing the story at all, he had to rely to some extent on GUY's information. BLUNDEN told him about VICTOR's cross checking with his sister, MIRIAM. DRIBERG said it was difficult to take it out altogether because the book was now going into page proof stage. BLUNDEN thought he was showing Mrs. BASSETT the proofs at a very early stage. DRIBERG said he was showing her the page proofs because he did not think she had much to contribute - she did not want to be brought into it herself at all. She could make a minor correction here and there. He added that it had been such a rush job, he had had to employ a ~~checker~~ researcher to do most of the checking - he had not had the time himself. He thought it would be safe to send GUY a cable saying: 'VICTOR denies story about regular paid employment by Mother.' He added that GUY had told him that she always paid him in cash, not by ~~cash~~ cheque and thought this was probably the origin of the story by GORONWY in 'The People' about seeing bundles of pound notes.

The only time in his life when he had bundles of pound notes was, either from Mrs. ROTHSCHILD, or from M.I.5. He returned to the question of the cable. Neither the British nor the Soviet Authorities would pounce on VICTOR as ROTHSCHILD. He would ask him to include some further correct details if possible, when telephoning on Wednesday. He asked BLUNDEN to tell VICTOR what he had said. He had no wish to offend him personally although he did not mind embarrassing the house of Rothschild. He would send off the cable today.

10.44.

JW.

SECRET*PA in Bugers
Camp on Rothschild
237a*

NAME: BLUNDEN

T.C. No.: 2993

Tel. No.: WEL 1074

Date: 19.10.56.

Responsible Section: D.1.



Outgoing call from BLUNDEN to TESS ROTHSCHILD to tell her about his conversation with TOM DRIBERG. (See line 2991 of even date at 10.44.) He also told her about the proposed footnote and the cable DRIBERG was to send to GUY. TESS thought the family would take action if their name appeared in the book as being advised by GUY. BLUNDEN thought DRIBERG was being very tricky and told her that he was not showing Mrs. BASSETT the early proofs but waiting for the page proofs of the book, which would be after the appearance of the articles. She could then only make minor alterations. TESS said how grateful she was to BLUNDEN. The latter was sorry he could not do more. VICTOR might talk to DRIBERG himself. BLUNDEN also spoke about conversation with Mrs. BASSETT. (See line 2991 of even date at 10.04.) Fortunately, DRIBERG had not found the CHURCHILL book. BLUNDEN had a feeling that JACKIE had taken that. He thought that Mrs. B. was feeling very guilty now about turning over the EDEN letter but it was too late. BLUNDEN was feeling quite hysterical over the damage it would do in America. He sent his love to VICTOR.

14.41.

JW.

SECRET

copy an
P.A. an Blunt
Rothschild.
 236A

NAME: BLUNDEN

T.C. No.: 2990

Tel. No.: WEL 1388

Date: 17.10.56.
(Part Two.)

Responsible Section: D.1.


 18 OCT 1956

Incoming call to BLUNDEN from TESS ROTHSCHILD.

- T. Well, now, look, about those two points. I mean are you going to talk to him, or not?
- B. I shan't in the normal course of events.
- T. Could you?
- B. I think so. But whether I shall be at all persuasive.
- T. Well, quite. The point is, that what VICTOR says is the first point about him and WEITZMAN and VICTOR - there is not a word of truth in it.
- B. Really.
- T. That they never had a meal at the Dorchester and VICTOR -
- B. Mind you, the Dorchester was my memory.
- T. Ah! And they never had an argument - you know, him pulling one way and WEITZMAN pulling another.
- B. Really.
- T. And that the speech - VICTOR says he did once make a speech when WEITZMAN asked him to make a speech at the time of the persecutions in Germany. He didn't say absolutely what WEITZMAN would have wanted him to say about Israel.
- B. But nothing to do with GUY.
- T. He says he can't remember that GUY had anything to do with it at all. I suppose, you know, at a casual dinner party or something, he might have said - VICTOR certainly can't remember it and there was no episode of GUY and WEITZMAN battling for his soul.
- B. How extraordinary. I have got some faint recollection of this but all I may know, as so often, is GUY's version of the story.
- T. Well, yes.
- B. I mean, I wasn't in the least involved.
- T. You know how bad VICTOR's memory is?
- B. It is bad, is it?
- T. He's got a vague memory. He rang up MIRIAM to check. I mean she was very close to him at that time and she says not a word. She's sure she would remember.

-Victor's sister

- B. And that's the kind of thing she would remember very acutely.
- T. Yes.
- B. It's very odd. Well, I suppose that I simply know what GUY told me.
- T. I was surprised, in fact - I couldn't help feeling I would have heard about it.
- B. You would have heard about it somehow, yes. It was rather a dramatic business.
- T. Although, if it was as long ago as that, I might not have heard.
- B. And VICTOR, in fact, made the speech but not quite saying what WEITZMAN wanted.
- T. Not saying quite what WEITZMAN wanted but so far as he knows, nothing to do with GUY.
- B. Well, then I think I'd better - that, mind you, was the one thing to which he did not attach much importance.
- T. I think if you could say that to VICTOR's recollection there's not a word of truth in that and therefore, it's of no interest.
- B. I will. Well, I'd better get on to him I think.
- T. About the other point. He also says that there was absolutely no question - this is of GUY, KATZ wasn't mentioned, was he?
- B. No, I mentioned KATZ, to DRIBERG because I thought -
- T. There was no question - this he has also checked with MIRIAM - of GUY having a regular paid job.
- B. You see this confirms my recollection.
- T. As an Undergraduate, he visited VICTOR's mother and they had discussions about politics, like you all did.
- B. Yes. Incidentally, one of the things he said - DRIBERG said - was that he habitually went to stay with VICTOR's mother at Tring.
- T. At Tring. VICTOR said he thought he went over to Ashstead (ph.)
- B. Yes, well after all, VICTOR's mother wasn't living at Tring.
- T. No, no.
- B. Oh, he might, yes - I thought he saw her at Kensington Palace Gardens actually - er - Kensington -
- T. VICTOR said he thought he remembered him going over to Ashstead (?) from Cambridge.
- B. Yes, well, that is possible. I've got a vague - I've got a recollection of his meeting her at Palace (ph.) Street.

- T. Well, that is possible - they certainly (? had discussions.)
- B. That is true, yes.
- T. But of course, that is not mentioned.
- B. That is not the point. Well, I take it that VICTOR would much rather not get in touch. Does he know DRIBERG?
- T. No, he doesn't.
- B. He's never met him? I take it he'd/^{much}rather not.
- T. I think he would rather not, if you are in -
- B. Well, you see, I have got myself into this slightly; only originally through these prints and, therefore - though I don't do it with any particular pleasure - I think it is very much better for me to ~~exit~~ try and do it than for VICTOR.
- T. I don't think it would really matter. I think VICTOR would very much mind it coming out about him having been advisor to the family. Any suggestion of that, I don't think he would like at all.
- B. Well, no.
- T. But I imagine no threats would make any difference to DRIBERG; I would have thought they would do the opposite.
- B. No. That's why one has got to be rather careful.
- T. I wonder putting in this letter of EDEN's.
- B. Well, that to me is the most awful thing of all.
- T. Well, I know. I don't suppose there is anything one can do about that, is there? I mean is there anybody who could ring him up, or ring Mrs. BASSETT?
- B. Well, Mrs. BASSETT's given it to him.
- T. She's done it already.
- B. She is rather distressed about it, I think.
- T. I am sure he wouldn't not do that for you.
- B. No, no, obviously not.
- T. I wonder whether he wouldn't do it for her. I don't feel that it would do EDEN any harm vis-a-vis the - I mean, I don't think it will make the Labour Party any better, so to speak. They were the Government then but I think it will do such harm in America.
- B. It will do immense harm in America. I suppose that is what GUY wants.
- T. I hadn't thought of that - of course.

- B. Well, of course. I mean, he benefits himself by - well, he doesn't but, I mean, he thinks he benefits himself by proving how well thought of he was by great men.
- T. Yes, quite.
- B. From EDEN to me, via VICTOR.
- T. Yes. Yes, I see the line.
- B. That's the line. The line I think is - 'I can't be as bad as you all think because of all these wonderful friends.'
- T. Oh, dear!
- B. It's a mess.
- T. It is a mess, isn't it? Why can't he leave it alone? Well, I suppose he's fulfilling his mission.
- B. Yes and nobody seems to know quite what DRIBERG is making out of it. But some very big figures have been mentioned.
- T. Yes. Well, VICTOR said that he assumed the only interest DRIBERG had in it was how much he made.
- B. Yes and also very, very good publicity.
- T. Yes, he hasn't had a lot of -
- B. No, he hasn't.
- T. BLUNDEN, who is publishing it as a matter of interest? He's not a fearfully good journalist.
- B. I don't know.
- T. I mean, presumably they don't want to get involved in a libel action.
- B. No. Er - now can I - I presume there is no chance that either of these things is actionable, is it?
- T. Well, VICTOR thought the first one might be actionable by the Bank. It implied that ROTHSCHILD hired such hopeless advisors. But I suppose it would have to be jolly carefully - I mean, they are well respected for that kind of thing. But if he insists about putting that in, you might say, well they had better get their lawyers to look at it jolly carefully.
- B. Yes.
- T. He didn't think the family would let it rest. VICTOR thinks the family might be angry if he says ~~they were paid by him~~ he was paid by them, to advise.
- B. Well, of course. And MIRIAM again confirms that there's no truth-
- T. MIRIAM again confirms - she, of course, was much closer to her mother than VICTOR.

Ext'd to
F4, 638
(KATZ)

- B. Yes. One thing I think I have lost his telephone number but I can get it from Mrs. BASSETT. I think I had better get hold of him - the trouble is I think it ought to be done rather quickly. These first bits are coming out in the Daily Mail next week. Yes, I could try and get hold of him tomorrow. I think that is the right thing to do but I am not all (? angry.)
omissions?
- T. No, quite. I am sure he is smooth tongued.
- B. He is smooth tongued all right.
- T. But still GUY might have said, I don't want to -
- B. He maintains that GUY had very much said, 'I don't want to (? involve) those people who are alive - my friends,' but he doesn't care about EDEN.
- T. No. Well, I suppose the worst is over, really. This can't be as bad as what has gone before.
- B. It can't be as bad as GORONWY.
- T. No.
- B. At least, I don't think so.
- T. Well, BLUNDEN, I would be extremely grateful.
- B. I'll certainly do that.
- T. I'm sorry to put it on you.
- B. Well, I think it is the only way to do it. I feel that the more people DRIBERG sees, the more danger there is in his saying, 'As Lord ROTHSCHILD said to me' and quoting. If he doesn't see him at all - I mean, I am already slightly exposed to that and therefore, it is better for me to re-expose myself rather than -
- T. Anyhow, 'What Lord ROTHSCHILD said to me' is not so interesting as what -
- B. No, no, quite. No but I think it would be much better if they kept apart.
- T. If you could, it would be wonderful.
- B. No, I'll certainly do that but as I say, I don't know what the result will be.
- T. Well, I hope we'll see you.
- B. Yes. I hope very much that you can come up next week.
- T. Well, I think we probably will, in which case I will give you a ring.
- B. Will you? Good.
- T. O.K.
- B. Good-bye.
- JW.

SECRET

1. C.V. to ss
 2. P.A. on Blunt
 3. Copy on Rothschild

235A

NAME: BLUNDEN

T.C. No.: 2990

Tel. No.: WEL 1388

Date: 17.10.56

Responsible Section: D.1.

Part 1

18 OCT 1956

Incoming call from TESS (ROTHSCHILD) to BLUNDEN.
 They exchanged greetings and TESS said that she had just got back.

B. You've just got back.

T. I've just got back.

B. And ARTIE gave you- (prob. Arthur Marshall).

T. ARTIE gave me a message.

B. Gave you a message.

T. Yes.

B. Em - are you alone?

T. Yes, totally.

B. Good - because I thought - he probably told you a little bit -

T. Very little.

B. A little, yes - well it isn't - I mean, don't worry-

T. No.

B. If TOM is telling the truth-

T. Yes.

B. And I don't know that he does or not-

T. Yes.

B. He - they have apparently agreed to leave out living people almost entirely.

T. They have?

B. Almost entirely.

T. Emm.

B. But unfortunately there are two things, I think I had better tell you - have you got two minutes?

T. I have indeed.

B. I had better tell you what the situation is and then you can decide what to do next.

T. Yes.

- B. There are two things that he wants to mention about VICTOR.
- T. Yes.
- B. Or, the one only indirectly.
- T. Can I just ask what stage the book's at?
- B. The book is going to appear at the end of next months
- T. I see; is it in proof yet?
- B. It's not - no, I don't think it's in proof, as far as I know, Mrs BASSETT is going to get the proofs so we shall be able to look at them-
- T. Ah-
- B. Or - I shall, I mean, I don't know how long we shall be able to have them.
- T. Yes, quite.
- B. It may be a question of my getting them along here for an evening.
- T. Yes, quite.
- B. In which case we can talk over the telephone.
- T. Yes.
- B. But - and the articles - the excerpts which are appearing in the Daily Mail, now, those I believe are due for next week.
- T. Oh are they.
- B. So that's pretty close. Do I imagine probably something will appear - something in the way of a manuscript or a proof will appear this week.
- T. This week - quite.
- B. Now the two episodes were these - one is the story which I do clearly remember of VICTOR and WEIZMAN - WEIZMAN wanting to persuade VICTOR into being a Zionist, I think this was during the war, and GUY arguing very strongly against it, and, in the end I think - didn't they all meet at the Dorchester? I seem to remember there was some episode when they-
- T. I don't - it must have been before I - I mean, I don't remember anything about that.
- B. You don't remember this at all?
- T. No.
- B. Well I'm sure it happened and I remember -
- T. I mean it might easily be before I really knew VICTOR.
- B. I can't place it, I thought - it was during the war sometime.

- T. Yes. I think I might have - probably would have remembered if it was after 1940.
- B. Yes, I think you would.
- T. But I certainly wouldn't have known about it before.
- B. No - but I'm sure it existed anyhow-
- T. Yes, all right.
- B. - and they ^{...}have, you know - they sort of struggled for his soul - and it ended up with VICTOR making some rather important speech on the lines that GUY suggested, I think, at some big Jewish dinner.
- T. Well that must have been earlier I think.
- B. Well it may have been just before the war even.
- T. It must have been when - he only made one speech which was in aid of the refugees, at the Mansion House dinner.
- B. Well I'm not sure that it wasn't that - I think it was that.
- T. That was about 1938.
- B. Well it must be that I think. Well I've got the dates all wrong, yes.
- T. Yes.
- B. No, that I think probably is right. That he said he didn't attach much importance to and said he would leave out if VICTOR wanted - mind you, whether he will I just don't know.
- T. Quite, he's a bit of a s----. ?
- B. I think he is, isn't he? He seems to be a complete s--- I'd never met him before.
- T.
- B. And tricky.
- T. And tricky, and I'm thinking about something, I should think personally rather a (silence).
- B. Em - I thought so.
- T. Anyhow, a journalist first and foremost and they're all the same.
- B. All the same.
- T. Mm.
- B. Now the second is to me much more puzzling. He says that GUY at one stage had a definitely - a regular paid job advising VICTOR's mother politically, in order to-for her to decide on investments.

- T. I think that is true.
- B. That is true?
- T. I believe so, whether it was paid I don't know.
He and KATZ and te ..
- B. I know he was in touch over one, he'd helped VICTOR to make a big scoop I believe over buying a Rolls Royce.
- T. Something like that, yes.
- B. That was one occasion and, of course, there was the mysterious WOLF KATZ who certainly advised Mrs ROTHSCHILD.
- Rudolf
- T. Mm.
- B. And GUY may have been in on that I've no recollection-
- T. Yes, I think GUY introduced KATZ.
- B. He introduced him, but I didn't know that he was in on the actual-
- T. I did know that, yes. I think VICTOR's mother clicked with GUY.
- B. You think she what?
- T. I think VICTOR's mother clicked with GUY.
- B. Yes. Yes, she did, I think.
- T. And she several times. !!!
- B. Yes.
- T. Whether it was regular and paid I don't know.
- B. But anyhow you think that is substantially true.
- T. I think that is substantially true.
- B. I thought it must be but I was rather puzzled at having no recollections of it at all.
- T. But I should have thought VICTOR would very much like to see the exact wording, but regular paid is probably I think not accurate.
- B. No. That he does attach importance to because he says GUY regards it as an important stage in his career, you know, the first time he'd earned regular money and so on.
- T. I see, yes. But that is - that's 1933 or something.
- B. It's a long way back, yes.
- T. Yes. Did he say he was doing it as a Communist then?
- B. As a what?
- T. As a Communist.
- B. Er no - oh I see, I don't know.
- T. If that is implied I think VICTOR might not like it.

Ext'd to PF 47,688 (KATZ)

- B. No. But as far as I can make out - I can't understand what the thesis is going to be, I think it's going to be, you know, 'I was always a Left wing Socialist' -
- T. And still am.
- B. 'And still am! yes. That I only deduced from something DRIBERG said in parting.
- T. You've met him have you?
- B. Mm.
- T. You've been seeing him have you?
- B. Yes, he rang me up - GUY sent a message through him saying that he very much wanted some coloured reproductions - pictures to hang, and would I help choose.
- T. Yes.
- B. But - and I was quite interested to meet TOM -
- T. Quite, I should think -
- B. And didn't like him at all.
- T. He'd seen a lot of him had he?
- B. Yes he had - he'd been staying with him - and he's just been back only for three or four days. And apparently by the way there is going to be something on the two of them, on - you have T.V. I think -
- T. Yes.
- B. I.T.V. it's supposed to be 9 o'clock on Friday.
- T. This Friday.
- B. Friday.
- T. Thank you.
- B. But I don't quite know - I thought I'd better tell you this as soon as possible.
- T. Well I'm very grateful. Is it all right as far as your concerned.
- B. Well as far as I can make out, again if he is speaking the truth, the only thing that he is putting in at all is an ~~ae~~ absolutely fiddling thing which is - it's all part of the same sceme of course. Em - he wants to **mention** the fact that ~~in~~ my first book I acknowledge GUY's help, you know, with GUY in the preface. Well I can't object to that.
- T. No, you can't.
- B. Incidentally I'm just republishing it and I've left that in.
- T. You have?
- B. Yes.

- T. Good.
- B. Well, one can't take it out.
- T. No.
- B. So that - which I gather will please GUY.
- T. Yes. I long to see you and talk to you about it all, I'd love to hear what TOM DRIBERG thought of him.
- B. Yes, of course, have I seen you since his mother went out.
- T. Yes.
- B. I have.
- T. We had a brief talk when we exchanged letters, do you remember.
- B. Of course, yes, I'd forgotten.
- T. But I can't remember whether you'd seen her.
- B. Yes I had.
- T. I think you had.
- B. Yes, because I'd got the letter from her. Well, when are you coming up?
- T. Well, you see, we haven't really got around to that - I suppose probably one day next week.
- B. Mm. But otherwise you'll be in Cambridge.
- T. Otherwise we're in Cambridge, yes.
- B. In Cambridge, yes.
- T. Well I think I can tell all this to VICTOR.
- B. Will you?
- T. And then we'll call you back, if he wants to- and DRIBERG, on the whole, is appearing to be cooperative.
- B. He's appearing to be very cooperative.
- T. Good.
- B. I think he's doing some - I don't know - it's so difficult to judge, but - they're going to do, as far as I can see, two things that personally I think are awful and perfectly pointless. One is to publish the letter which Eden wrote to GUY, do you remember ~~WASA~~ he was put in charge to in Washington. And, the other-
- T. It's very unfair.
- B. I think it's absolutely monstrous.
- T. Of course that's DRIBERG's political-
- B. Yes, of course.

T. s----

B. I think it's absolutely s---

T. And there's nothing that can be done.

B. Nothing to be done because Mrs BASSETT has handed the letter over.

T. The what?

B. Mrs BASSETT has handed the letter over.

T. Oh! Well is it just kind of flowery phrases or-

B. Oh - it's simply saying, ~~that~~ 'thank you very much for all the trouble you took while I was in Washington I so much enjoyed your company', that kind of thing, nothing more-

T. The trouble is that's rather recent.

B. I know.

T. Oh - that really is b----y isn't it!

B. Absolutely b----y.

T. And what - anything about Clarissa or anything-

B. Er - not that I know of, no, but the fact that Churchill prev- do you remember that famous book that Churchill presented him with?

T. Oh I've forgotten that.

B. It was years and years ago, it must have been about 1936 I think. I can't now remember - for some reason GUY got an interview with Churchill and they got on rather well, you'll imagine.

T. Well yes.

B. And at the end of it Churchill presented him with a copy of some book he'd recently published 'Arms and the Government I think'. Covenant.

T. But that can't hurt Churchill can it?

B. No, Churchill's ~~being~~ beyond hurting, but I think for the present Prime Minister it's absolutely disgusting.

T. I mean, think what America will feel over that b---y

B. I think personally Mrs BASSETT's been very very foolish.

T. And you can't persuade her to-

B. I don't think they can get it- I don't think-

T. Maybe she doesn't want to.

B. Well her line - she only told me this over the telephone this morning - her line is, well it's not my letter and it's not my affair but GUY want's it to be published.

T. Yes.

B. The book fortunately cannot be found for the moment, I don't feel so strongly about that.

T. No. Well, I suppose we must be thankful really.

B. Yes.

T. I mean, if he'd decided to be b---y, which would have surprised me I must say. -

B. Yes.

T. - That he should be personally b---y I -

B. Yes, it would have surprised me too, but it's troublesome.

T. Well BLUNDEN!

B. There we are. Well, look, you tell VICTOR, I ~~don't know~~ must tell you what my movements are today in case you want to get hold of me.

BLUNDEN told her that he would be there more or less until 4.30 should she wish to get hold of him. He asked if she had enjoyed it in America and he said that he looked forward to hearing it all. He went his love to VICTOR.

12.10

L.E.

SECRET

~~See on~~
 1. ✓ P.A. to see of H.M. to see
 2. P.A. on Blunt
 3. Copy on Burgess
 4. Note exts for Rothchild.

NAME: BLUNDEN

T.C. No.: 2991

Tel. No.: WEL 1389

Date: 17.10.56.

Responsible Section: D.1.

17 OCT 1956

234A

Incoming call to BLUNDEN from TOM DRIBERG.

- D. I should have rung you before to say how extremely grateful he was for those - (prints probably).
- B. Oh, well, I'm very glad. I didn't know when you got back actually.
- D. I got back at the week-end but I've been frightfully hard-pressed. He was tremendously grateful and pleased. He asked me, particularly of course to convey every message to you. He said he would not write for obvious reasons but he was delighted with the pictures too; he thought they were just right.
- B. Good.
- D. One thing could I ask you? Have you by any chance got - Mrs BASSETT thought you might possibly have that book that CHURCHILL gave him?
- B. No, I'm quite certain I haven't. She's asked me about this once or twice and I've got a certain number of his books here and so on but I'm quite certain that I've never had that.
- D. The book was 'Arms and the Covenant.'
- B. 'Arms and the Covenant,' was it?
- D. Yes.
- B. I've got sometime to sort through his stuff because I've got to clear it out - I've had it in store here for a long time.
- D. Have you got his stuff in one, sort of, cupboard or box, or something?
- B. Well, it's in a series of packing cases.
- D. Well, I could come or send somebody and look through them if it would be easier, you know.
- B. Well, I think I'd better do something about it because I've got, anyhow, to - well, I've got to persuade Mrs. BASSETT to store a lot of it somewhere else because I've got to bring those rooms into use now.
- D. Quite. Exactly.
- B. But I'm almost certain I haven't because, I think, Mrs. BASSETT says she knows the book was in the flat -
- D. Yes.

- B. Well, you see, I've got nothing from there. All I've got from her was stuff from - stuff that was sent up from - at one of the stages when she moved - either when she moved down to Newbury, or when she moved up from Newbury to London.
- D. Yes. I went yesterday to the Army and Navy Stores' Warehouse and looked through the box there which she thought the likeliest to contain this book because it was a box that he had sent from America - when he came back from America. He certainly had this book in America.
- B. Oh, he had it in America, did he?
- D. Yes. But it wasn't in that box. There are, of course, 8 other boxes there full of books, which I haven't dared tackle.
- B. Now look here but that's a much more likely place.
- D. It is, is it?
- B. Yes Because I am quite certain that I've got nothing here that came from the flat. It was a very old - the sort of things that I got were - are they called whatnots, those things you - ?
- D. Oh, yes, yes.
- B. Full of - oh, school notebooks.
- D. Oh, I see, yes.
- B. A lot of books which, for some reason, he had in the country and not in his flat and really nothing else - er- a lot of school photographs. All that I've got here is a very early archaeological layer, so to speak.
- D. Yes, quite. Obviously, then, I should think it wouldn't be there. I'd better go on hunting through the Army and Navy boxes.
- B. I'm afraid I think that's much the best chance. I'm not sure - Mrs. BASSETT thought at one point that JACKIE HEWITT had taken it but I don't think that's very likely.
- D. I wonder. Is he accessible or not?
- B. He's down in Colchester.
- D. Colchester. But would he have it with him or would he have sold it, do you think?
- B. Well, the trouble is, if he had by any chance taken it, he wouldn't admit it.
- D. No, that's the trouble.
- B. Anyhow, I don't think it's the kind of thing he would have taken. I mean, he certainly went off with a lot of GUY's suits and so on but I don't think it's at all likely that he would have taken that.

- D. No, I see. Well, I'll just have to go on hunting at the Army and Navy then.
- B. I'll give a sort of survey of what there is here and see if I think it's worth looking but I'm almost certain that it's much too early.
- D. O.K. Well, thank you very much indeed.
- B. Well, thank you very much for taking them.
- D. That's all right. Good-bye.

10.18.

Incoming call to BLUNDEN from Mrs. BASSETT.

- Mrs. B. I'll tell you what I'm ringing you up about. I had a visit from TOM yesterday.
- B. He was on the telephone two minutes ago.
- Mrs. B. Where from? I tried to get hold of him.
- B. Unfortunately I - it sounded to me as if he was telephoning from - he was telephoning from an office.
- Mrs. B. I don't know where his office is.
- B. Hasn't he got a sort of office in his house?
- Mrs. B. Well, I rang up his house and it was engaged all the time. I rang after it was disengaged and there was no answer. I'll try again.
- B. I'm sorry, I didn't think to ask.
- Mrs. B. No, of course you wouldn't. He told me he was going to be on the television on Friday.
- B. Oh, is he?
- Mrs. B. Now is he the only one on it, you know, because I'll tell you why. ~~MAKE~~ I hear there are going to be shots in Moscow because I had a telephone message this morning.
- B. Oh, did you?
- Mrs. B. Yes. And I was asked if I had seen it, you see and I said: 'Well, I understand there are going to be some things on Friday' and I was trying to get hold of TOM to find out if, you know, if -
- B. I gather they are going to be shown together, aren't they?
- Mrs. B. Well, it will be Friday then.
- B. Yes.
- Mrs. B. Well, would you like to come here and see it? It'll be 9 o'clock.

- B. Well, it's very kind of you but, unfortunately, I'm going out - I'm dining with HONEY actually that night and so we might all try and see it.
- Mrs. B. Yes. If I get any news that it isn't at 9 o'clock on the I.T.V., I'll let you know.
- B. Thank you very much.
- Mrs. B. And the other thing I was going to say - he so liked your present.
- B. So TOM told me.
- Mrs. B. And he told you he hadn't written?
- B. Yes.
- Mrs. B. Because he thought you'd like it better.
- B. Yes, well that was very - anyhow he's pleased with it.
- Mrs. B. He's delighted. He says they're perfectly lovely.
- B. Oh, well, I'm very, very glad.
- Mrs. B. And he's more resigned now about the book apparently.
- B. He is? Oh, good.
- Mrs. B. Did you see a photograph this morning in the Daily Mail?
- B. No, I didn't. No, I don't see the Mail. Was that advertising the - ?
- Mrs. B. Yes but only a photograph of both of them together. Quite good. At least, I think not very good of TOM but the other I think is very good.
- B. Oh, good. Well, I must get hold of that.
- Mrs. B. And next week, there are going to be excerpts and the book's coming out at the end of March and he's promised me -
- B. The end of March.
- Mrs. B. Yes. No, the end of November. He's promised I can see the proofs but I forgot to say that thing about you. Have you said it?
- B. Well, I said it but I was er - I didn't say it really very firmly.
- Mrs. B. Well, when I see the proofs, I can say it then, you see, can't I?
- B. Yes.
- Mrs. B. I forgot I'm afraid yesterday.

East Rothschild

B. I didn't er - I was, at that moment, rather more anxious about TESS and VICTOR and er - there I must have a talk with him.

Mrs. B. Are they coming into it at all?

B. TESS doesn't but VICTOR comes in, apparently, in two ways, one of which I can't help thinking something's gone wrong about but I must ask VICTOR. I can't help thinking he's got the facts wrong.

Mrs. B. Do you know what it is?

B. It was something about er - his having a job, a paid job, at one hundred pounds a month I think the sum was.

Mrs. B. A what?

B. At £100 a month advising VICTOR's Mother.

Mrs. B. Yes, well, he did get some money for that.

B. He did get money for that. Oh, well, then, I'm quite wrong about it.

Mrs. B. I'll tell you how he got money. I know he told VICTOR to buy ~~some~~ some Rolls Royce and I know he gave him some money for that.

B. I remember that, yes.

Mrs. B. But I don't think that lasted very long. I don't think it's necessary to put that in. Do you?

B. No. TOM, unfortunately, maintains that this is one of the sort of stepping stones in his career - that for the first time he had made money for himself and had a job.

Mrs. B. I don't think that ought to go in, myself.

B. No, I think it would be very tiresome.

Mrs. B. Can you manage it, do you think?

B. No, I can't. I tried that and failed.

Mrs. B. Well, I'll try.

B. Will you?

Mrs. B. Yes, certainly.

B. I'm going to get in touch with VICTOR, who got back from America yesterday.

Mrs. B. Have you got in touch with him?

B. Well, I haven't because he only got back yesterday. I left a message. I'll try and ring him today.

Mrs. B. Well, then, another thing I was going to say. He's going down to see DOMS (ph.) ?

*Dobbs I think
No, DODDS - ELW*

B. Oh, is he? Yes.

Mrs. B. Because - about the Daily Mail thing - I said you can't put him in unless you see Mr. DOMS (ph.) So he's going down to see him.

B. Oh, good.

Mrs. B. And I'm sure Mr. DOMS (ph.) won't mind. I mean he's one person who doesn't mind how much stuff -

B. No, he is a remarkable tough old thing.

Mrs. B. He doesn't mind a bit. He's getting very old but he doesn't mind in the least, you see, so I am certain he'll say that can go in. There was something else. Are you very busy?

B. No.

Mrs. B. I'm wondering what else TOM said. I will remember about you.

B. Thank you very much.

Mrs. B. Oh, I know what I was going to say. GUY - they're very interested in that very short note of ANTHONY'S - ANTHONY E. going in. ANTHONY EDEN.

B. Yes.

Mrs. B. Which I don't want to go in but GUY - it isn't my book, it isn't my letter. There's nothing in the letter except ~~thank him~~ thanking him for looking after him in Washington and enjoying it very much.

B. I know.

Mrs. B. But I can't see any point in putting that in.

B. I can quite understand that TOM wants to put it in because it's a very good bit of er -

Mrs. B. I know, I quite agree with that.

B. I think GUY oughtn't to have er - Where is the original?

Mrs. B. I, unfortunately, had the original but GUY knew and you see I don't feel that I'm in a position to say that it mustn't go in because, you know, it isn't my letter.

B. No but you've got physical possession of it.

Mrs. B. What?

B. You've actually got it, have you?

Mrs. B. Yes, I've given it to him, yesterday. *(silly old B)*

B. Oh, God!

Mrs. B. I know, I'm very sorry but you see er - I feel that it's GUY'S life - you know what I mean and there's nothing in the letter.

B. No, I know.

Mrs. B. I didn't want it to go in but GUY wanted it to go in and I felt that it wasn't my business.

B. Yes, very difficult.

Mrs. B. He's left me out entirely.

B. He has. Oh, good.

Mrs. B. There may be a photograph of me with GUY, which GUY wanted put in but that's doubtful, you know, but that's all. He thinks the end of this week or the beginning of next. So perhaps if he leaves it with me, BLUNDEN, you would like to look at it yourself?

B. Yes, I would, very much.

Mrs. B. He hasn't said he's going to give it to you, has he?

B. No. No, I didn't ask for that. Partly because I knew that you were going to get it.

Mrs. B. Did he ring you up this morning, or did you -

B. He rang me up this morning, yes. Really just for - well, for two things. One to say that GUY was very pleased with the prints and secondly to ask if I had got the CHURCHILL book.

Mrs. B. I told him you hadn't got it.

B. I can't have it, can I?

Mrs. B. I know you haven't got it.

B. That is right isn't it? It's impossible.

Mrs. B. You can't possibly. I'll tell you the truth. GUY says that he unpacked it coming back from America and put it on a shelf in his flat. I know he didn't do that. If it's anywhere it's in the American books because I looked through all his books. M.I.5. may have taken it but they can't possibly because I looked through all the books and I know that, you know - so TOM's going down to look at the books to see if he can find it. I think it's so unnecessary putting that in myself. Don't you?

B. Yes. I think it is more tiresome for EDEN to have that letter than it is for CHURCHILL to have the other.

Mrs. B. Well, I'm very sorry about the letter but BLUNDEN, you know it-

B. Oh, I know. I'm sorry I -

Mrs. B. No, well, I didn't want to and I told GUY, on the telephone several times. You know his arm's been very bad and he thought it was flebitis?

B. Oh, no, I didn't.

- Mrs. B. But it isn't. He has, at last, gone to a doctor - at least the hospital and it's only bathing ... - he swam too much. He was never out of the water and he got a muscle mixed up with his nerves and they'll cure him in about a fortnight.
- ? mussel
- B. Oh, good.
- Mrs. B. But he wouldn't go to hospital and he's been going on and on - I've been worrying about him. I didn't like to telegraph again but he rang me up and I asked this morning and he said it would be better in a fortnight.
- B. Yes.
- Mrs. B. Well, I'll let you know anything and I'm trying to find out about Friday - I'll let you know if it isn't Friday at 9.
(T.V. broadcast)
- B. Thank you very much.
- Mrs. B. I'll see you sometime, when you've got time.
- B. Yes, rather.
- Mrs. B. GUY will ring me up again next week and when I get hold of this book, perhaps you'll come in, BLUNDEN.
- B. Yes, I'd love to.
- Mrs. B. And I'll try and keep it - I'll make some excuse to keep it for a day or two.
- B. Well, after all, you can't read it straight off.
- Mrs. B. No, I can't.
- B. I'll come round - if you can't keep it more than a day or two, I'll come round and fetch it and read it in one evening.
- Mrs. B. Yes. I'm awfully sorry though about EDEN's letter but I -
- B. Yes, it's terribly difficult.
- Mrs. B. It is difficult for me, you see I am a Mother and it isn't my letter; GUY knew I had got it.
- B. Yes, it makes it very difficult. I quite agree.
- Mrs. B. It is difficult and I don't want it to go in. I can't see any point in putting it in, except that EDEN is Conservative and TOM'S a Socialist.
- B. Yes, well, of course, it's good publicity. I mean it'll get the headlines.
- Mrs. B. I don't know how many thousand - GUY won't take any money for the book.
- B. Won't take any money for it, no.
- Mrs. B. But he's going to have a present.
- B. Oh, good.

Mrs. B. Some furniture, you see. I told TOM I didn't want any money - I mean, I thought he might wonder whether he ought to give me something - I said I wouldn't take anything from my son, you know. So that's all right; he needn't worry about that. I will try and - do let's see about what is in there that we ought to get out, when the book comes.

B. Yes.

Mrs. B. And I will see - I did forget about you but I will do it when I see him again.

B. Well, it's such a passing allusion. I am much more worried about VICTOR. The other thing, incidentally, which TOM offered to take out and I was going to talk to VICTOR about was - do you remember the occasion when VICTOR - when WEITZMAN was trying to turn VICTOR into a Zionist - was very anxious to get his support.

Mrs. B. Into a what?

B. Into a Zionist.

Mrs. B. Oh, yes.

B. And GUY argued with VICTOR very strongly against it and in the end, I think they actually all met - there was, I think, an evening in Clariges, in which the three argued. So to speak WEITZMAN and GUY wrestling for VICTOR's soul. That really is much more relevant; much more interesting.

Mrs. B. Yes.

B. But er - I mean if VICTOR's name can be kept out, all the better.

Mrs. B. I wish we could keep VICTOR out of it.

B. Yes, so do I. Oddly enough, TOM said he was quite prepared to leave that story out but he was not prepared to leave out the story about VICTOR's mother and the advice.

Mrs. B. I can't see any point in that.

B. No. As I say, he says that is a sort of step in GUY's professional career but I don't think it was in any sense.

Mrs. B. That only went on for a very short time.

B. Yes, I thought it was one flash in the pan but then ~~he~~ said there was a man called - a very able, rather sinister figure called ROS (ph.) KATZ, whom he introduced to Mrs. ROTHSCHILD and he advised her for a long time.

Mrs. B. Yes.

B. And I can't help thinking this has got muddled up somehow.

Mrs. B. But I don't believe that was so. I don't believe it went on for more than a month.

Est Rothschild

Ext'd 16

PF 47, 638

(KATZ)

Rudolf

B. No, nor do I. Well, I'll get on to VICTOR, anyhow, and find out.

Mrs. B. You get on, will you? And you let me know in case - well, anyhow, we'll go through it with the book.

B. Yes.

Mrs. B. Good-bye.

10.45.

Incoming call to BLUNDEN from Mrs. BASSETT.

Mrs. B. I wasn't going to worry you but I've got on to TOM GRIBERG's secretary and the thing is coming off on Friday at the time I said and they are trying to get a broadcast of his voice and they're going to ring me up at lunchtime today.

B. Oh, good.

Mrs. B. So, if there's anything new, I'll ring you, or perhaps you'll ring me.

B. I'll ring you at lunch, yes. Thank you so much.

Mrs. B. And it is definitely coming on on Friday at 9. If there is anything more I'll let you know but they are going to ring me up at lunchtime.

B. Thank you very much. Good-bye.

11.03.

JW.

SECRET

233A

NAME: BLUNDEN

T.C. No.: 2993

Tel. No.: WEL 1074

Date: 15.10.56.

Responsible Section: D.1.

*Copy in Blunden
" Rothschild -
" (file n-7) jet model*



Outgoing call from BLUNDEN to Cambridge 4488 for Lord ROTHSCHILD, who had not yet returned to the Country. He spoke to Colonel ARTHUR MARSHALL, who was distraught that he had been unable to get up to London to see BLUNDEN again. BLUNDEN was looking forward to seeing him. He asked when VICTOR was getting back. ARTHUR said they were due at Southampton at 3 p.m. and should be back in Cambridge about 8 o'clock. He did not know when VICTOR would be coming to London, but expected fairly soon. BLUNDEN said he rather wanted to speak to him, partly because he had seen TOM DRIBERG, "who is launching out into the press. Although I think, if TOM DRIBERG is telling the truth which I very much doubt, the whole thing is going to be a great deal less tiresome than we imagined. There are a couple of points I'd rather like to talk to VICTOR about." BLUNDEN believed DRIBERG was still in Moscow and expected back early next week. He repeated that he would like to talk to VICTOR but ARTHUR should be cautious in what he said about this because VICTOR might get into a state and he (BLUNDEN) did not think there was any cause. He did not trust DRIBERG at all but he seemed to have the intention of behaving well. There were just one or two details where VICTOR was involved, which he thought would be as well to talk over, because, if DRIBERG was speaking the truth, he could, perhaps, be persuaded to leave them out. ARTHUR thought it might be better to just mention it to TESS. BLUNDEN agreed and added that, so far, her name had not come into the discussions at all. ARTHUR would do what he could - VICTOR was bound to come up within the next week or two. BLUNDEN then spoke about a party to which ARTHUR had been invited but had not attended due to his not having a dress suit in London. BLUNDEN hoped he would come up for the postponed meal very soon.

21.58.

JW.

SECRET*J.K.W.*
16/x *232A*

NAME: BLUNDEN

T.C. No.: 2990

Tel. No.: WEL 1388

Date: 15.10.56.

Responsible Section: D.1.

*Copy on Blunt
.. Honey.*

18 OCT 1956

Incoming call to BLUNDEN from HONEY, who said they had just got back from a flying visit to Amsterdam and Rotterdam to see the paintings. They would be here until the end of the month. HONEY asked how it felt to be Sir Anthony. BLUNDEN said he was getting a little more used to it. They discussed when to meet. It was arranged that BLUNDEN, and JOHN GASKIN, would dine with the HONEYs on Friday.

East. Peach

H. Do you know where KIM is?

B. No, I don't. The last I heard from KIM was - he wrote to me from Ireland in June, I think, to congratulate me and said he was coming over to London in July and would ring me. Then I heard nothing more and then he said he was going out to join his Father in Beirut.

H. I haven't heard a word from him; not even a card.

B. Oh, you haven't. I've heard nothing at all.

H. I'll ring his Mother and find out what has happened.

B. I didn't do anything because he said he was definitely going to get in touch with me.

H. Yes. I don't know what can have happened because he usually writes me a short note or something - keeps in touch whilst we're away. I wasn't sure where he was and so I haven't written to him.

B. I imagine he's left Ireland anyhow.

H. I should think he's possibly gone out to the Middle East.

BLUNDEN agreed. They would look forward to seeing each other on Friday.

18.25.

RF. 604, 584

JW.

SECRET

231a

NAME: BLUNDEN
 Tel. No.: WEL 4181
 Responsible Section: D.I.a.

T.C. No.: 2992
 Date: 7.10.56.
Sunday



*Copy to M.K.
 P.A. on Blunden
 8/10*

Outgoing call from BLUNDEN to HOL 8696 to (TOM) DRIBERG.

- B. This is BLUNDEN.
- D. Oh, hello, yes.
- B. Good morning. I'm sorry I ought to have answered your letter but as a matter of fact I lost it and your address.
- D. Well, it's very clever of you to find my telephone number.
- B. Well, I got it from Mrs. BASSETT.
- D. Ah, yes, yes.
- B. Am I right in thinking you're going off tomorrow?
- D. Yes, I'm going off first thing tomorrow morning.
- B. The thing is, I've got some prints.
- D. Oh, have you? Splendid.
- B. They make a tidy parcel but slightly heavy I'm afraid with cardboard.
- D. That's all right. I mean, they're not framed I presume.
- B. No, no. They're in a cardboard roll.
- D. Oh, grand. Well, I'd love to take them.
- B. Well, that's very kind of you. When can I drop them round?
- D. Well, where do you live?
- B. Well, I live in Portman Square but I can easily bring them round, if you tell me when you'll be in, or someone will be in to take them.
- D. Actually, I'm just going out now and I'll be out moving about London most of the day but I have a car so that I could easily call for them.
- B. Are you sure that isn't -
- D. No, that's perfectly all right. I could call about 12 o'clock if that would do.
- B. That's perfect, yes.

D. Are you at the Courtauld?

B. I'm at the Courtauld, yes. The only thing is - it's 20
Portman Square, do you know the - ?

D. I know, yes.

B. Would you ring the lefthand bell?

D. The left-hand bell. I'll be thereat 12 or very soon afterwards.

B. Thank you, that is kind of you. Thank you very much.

D. Good-bye.

10.33.

JW.

SECRET

2300

NAME: REVAI

T.C. No.: 3103

Tel. No.: HYD 3116

Date: 5.10.56

Responsible Section: D.l.a.



Outgoing call BLUNDEN to Mrs BASSETT to say that he was trying to get hold of the prints. He mentioned having lost TOM's (DRIBERG) address. Mrs BASSETT gave it to him and the telephone number HOL 8696. She said that he was coming back today or tomorrow. She had heard that he had been made vice-chairman of the Labour Party. BLUNDEN had no idea that he had got this far, that he was becoming so important. Mrs BASSETT told him that GOGIE had said that he would probably become chairman. Mrs BASSETT continued-

Mrs B. I'll tell you who rang me up the other day, I don't know whether ANDY told you - from SAM, is it SAM LONGMAN or something like that?

B. Oh SAM - as a matter of fact I'm with ANDY -

Mrs B. A friend of ANDY's isn't it?

B. I can't remember his surname - I just know him, yes.

Mrs B. Well he rang up, he wanted a quicker address for GUY, and I said well I can't give you a quick address because that's the only one I've got.

B. Well the only quick address is to send a telegram to him after all.

Mrs B. Yes - well apparently he writes to him, you see.

B. Oh does he, I didn't know that, yes.

Mrs B. Yes, apparently he does.

B. He's a nice chap I think.

Mrs B. Is he nice?

B. I think so, he's very odd.

Mrs B. He's going back to wherever he lives - the South of France

B. South of France or Italy - somewhere -

Mrs B. Somewhere there.

B. He's an odd character, but I rather like him.

Mrs B. What?

B. I rather like him personally, not everyone likes him.

Mrs B. No - apparently he must have kept in touch with GUY because he didn't seem to like that address much, he wants something quicker.

B. Something quicker - yes, I don't - rather a hopeless request.

Mrs BASSETT informed BLUNDEN that she thought GUY would be giving up his nice house - she was very sorry about that though she admitted that it was not at all suitable in the winter. She said that he was so well, going to bed at 9.30 every night. GUY had said in his letter that when he goes to live in town that he would have later nights. BLUNDEN sympathised - he said that he knew the hours there were very late indeed. Mrs BASSETT said that the early nights and being regularly cosseted suited GUY and was good in every way - his nerves - he was quite a different person - 'he's like he used to be before he went to Cambridge really'.

Mrs BASSETT hoped to see BLUNDEN sometime. He asked if he could go and see her next week. Mrs BASSETT would love to see him. She mentioned having ~~ring~~ written to GUY today. GUY had rung her on Wednesday - she could not hear him, or rather she could hear him but he could not hear her. GUY apparently was suffering from a bad shoulder and had seen the doctor. She said that GUY now had a kitten as well as his dog. BLUNDEN promised to ring her next week.

14.42

L.E.

SECRET

① H.K. to see ^{file} 9/10/56
 ② Copy on Bungess
 ③ P.A. on Blunt
 2292

NAME: BLUNDEN

T.C. No.: 2990

Tel. No.: WEL 1388

Date: 4.10.56.

Responsible Section: D.I.a.



Incoming call to BLUNDEN from ISAI^{AH} BERLIN from Oxford about his step-son who had been expected as a student at the Courtauld. He had failed both his examinations and so was going to Harvard instead. Meanwhile, ISAI^{AH} had been to several interesting Countries including Moscow. He spoke about the paintings he had seen there, and questions he had been asked by two Soviet citizens standing before a Picasso. He agreed that he had just gone there to have fun although he was officially an attache at the British Embassy. He had met Mr. DRIBERG.

B. Oh, did you? Now what do you think about all that?

I. Well, indeed. Firstly, I met ^{him} at luncheon at the HAYTERS and we speculated what would happen if I met a certain person and I said I did not think I would speak to him. At that time, although I did not know, he had already fixed up a date. Then I met him at an Indonesian party and he drew me aside and said: 'I've met him, I've seen him. Would you like to see him?' I said: 'No, I've no wish to.' Did I have a message for him? I said: 'Well, you can tell him I'm very fond of him. I've always been very fond of him but I think he's acted abominably and I don't wish to see him at all. I think it's absolutely frightful what he's done. I'm very, very fond of him. You can tell him that if you like. But certainly I shan't see him - I don't see REES either. I don't see why two blacks make a white! That is the sort of high line I took. He said he couldn't tell him that it would wound his feelings. I said I could not force him, he could tell him what he liked. Then he gave me a description of the life he had gathered. It's quite amusing. And he's got £50,000 from the Daily Mail.

B. 50,000.

I. Well, he didn't tell me that but I know that he's got it and he's going to write a book.

B. Yes.

I. It hasn't come out yet. It's advertised but so far nothing has happened.

B. He's hardly started writing it has he?

I. I think he wrote it all the time he was there.

B. Oh, did he?

I. Yes. He carried the manuscript in his pocket. And what he said about our old acquaintance is that he said that when he was in England he was hungry for Socialism but satisfied about private life.

B. M'm.

I. He's now satisfied about Socialism but hungry for gossip.

B. Yes, I could imagine that, yes.

I. He said he is quite sober - no drink, no boys.

B. No.

I. He's liking it and says he is very happy and all that.

B. That's what I gathered from his Mother.

I. I listened in a rivetted manner and then could not think what I wanted to know. I sort of said: 'What books is he reading?' He said: 'Oh, well, ANGUS WILSON, IAN FORSYTHE.'

B. No change.

I. No change, no. And he says he thinks he'll come to England one day. Why not? He wants to look up his dear friends.

BLUNDEN then asked if ISAIAH was going to be in London at all. ISAIAH thought not very much and invited BLUNDEN to Oxford. The latter would like to come sometime and would invite himself one week-end. ISAIAH said he had to go to India in November - he was travelling in the company of Sir DAVID ECCLES, Sir KENNETH CLARKE and Sir CHARLES DARWIN. BLUNDEN remarked that it was very distinguish company. He would try to come down during the second half of October. BLUNDEN thanked him for telephoning - he was sorry about the boy and sent his love to ELLEN.

17.32.

JW.

SECRET

NAME: BLUNDEN

Tel. No.: WEL 1388

Responsible Section: D.I.a.

① F4/M. to see *Wk* 2/10/56.
 ② P.A. on Blunt
 ③ Copy on Buzens.
 ④ T.C. No.: 2990 *228a*
 Date: 28.9.56.



See by bag.
2.10.

Incoming call to BLUNDEN from Mrs. BASSETT.

Note: Refers to article in The Mail of 28/9. "The Bungers Story" Should the Mail print it?"
D.H.W.

Mrs. B. I've just had a - I don't know if you've seen the Daily Mail.

B. No, I haven't.

Mrs. B. Well, anyhow, it doesn't much matter; there's nothing in it of very great importance but I've just rung up TOM about it and he's going to see GUY on Monday week.

B. Oh, he's going back, is he?

Dring

Mrs. B. He's going back for three or four days.

B. Oh, I see.

Mrs. B. And er - because I had a letter - GUY knows I'm rather fussed you see - I had a letter saying that he is equally so. Well, apparently, he's been ringing up TOM and has now told TOM how fussed he is.

B. What about the articles?

Mrs. B. No, nothing about the articles, about the book.

B. Oh, I see - about the book.

Mrs. B. He's getting cold feet about saying he could write it and TOM thinks it will be all right but I think he will, you know, because he is very persuasive.

B. Yes.

Mrs. B. But I think he'll - I think - when I was talking to GUY I told him one or two things I thought would be a good thing not to put in.

B. Yes.

Mrs. B. And GUY said, well what I - you know, do what I thought. And I'm hoping he'll tell him that. I don't know whether I can get a letter through but I think I'll ring up - I think I'll ring up - I think I'll send GUY cable and tell him to ring me up one day next week before TOM gets there.

B. Yes.

- Mrs. B. And rub in definitely, those things must be left out. I think ANDY told you what I mean - one thing.
- B. Well, I know one thing, yes.
- Mrs. B. Yes, well that. It's going in the book, isn't it?
- B. Well, I didn't get - I wasn't quite clear about that. You see he was really only quoting -
- Mrs. B. No, I mean it is going in your book.
- B. Oh, it's going in my book, yes.
- Mrs. B. Yes, well then, you see, I think GUY will be so pleased about that.
- B. No, that's all right.
- Mrs. B. Anyhow, he's quite agreed - when I told him what I felt - I said I hadn't talked to anybody - when I told him what I felt, he said: 'Oh, well, you have it out - you say what you like and have it out.' In fact, I've got ~~XXXXXX~~ ^{made a face} carte blanche from his letter.
- B. Yes, I see.
- Mrs. B. He's very fussed and that's why TOM is going out again. He rather wishes he hadn't - well, he doesn't wish he hadn't done it but he said, you see, from publicity for me.
- B. Yes.
- Mrs. B. And he says that nothing will stop the publicity.
- B. No.
- Mrs. B. As you see. And it might just as well be on his side as on the ~~xx~~ other, and I do see his point.
- B. Yes, that is perfectly true. Of course, this will provoke an enormous new round of publicity but still, I mean, I do feel it will do good.
- Mrs. B. ANTHONY, you won't say that he's going, will you?
- B. No, no.
- Mrs. B. You know because - you know, I mean - you see, I don't want to lose face with him, I mean, I don't want him to lose faith in me.
- B. No.
- Mrs. B. He tells me these things, you see, but he doesn't want them spread and in the Daily Mail it says he is going to see the Foreign Office.
- B. Oh, I see, yes. Oh, I imagined he had done that.

- Mrs. B. No, he offered to and they didn't want to see him. That was in the Daily Mail.
- B. Oh, really!
- Mrs. B. No, it didn't say they didn't want to see him. He said: 'I am quite willing to see the Foreign Office but they apparently don't want to see me.' But in the Daily Mail today, they said the Foreign Office do want to see him.
- B. It seemed very odd that they shouldn't.
- Mrs. B. Well, yes, but you know what official places are, don't you?
- B. Yes.
- Mrs. B. That's all I think, ANTHONY. If you want me to say anything to GUY because I'm sure he'll ring me up next week, perhaps I can -
- B. Yes. Can I perhaps come round - can I think this thing over and perhaps come round and see you sometime on Monday or Tuesday?
- Mrs. B. Yes, certainly.
- B. Good. As a matter of fact I had a letter from TOM saying that GUY wanted some coloured prints and -
- Mrs. B. Some coloured prints?
- B. Some coloured prints and would I help select them. So I'll try and get in touch with him - I'm afraid I haven't done anything yet.
- Mrs. B. Well, he's away all next week and so I can't get in touch with TOM.
- B. Oh, I see. What TOM's away?
- Mrs. B. He's going to Blackpool today. He'll be away all next week. He offered to take anything out for me.
- B. Yes. When is he actually going?
- Mrs. B. Monday or Tuesday week.
- B. I see, yes. Well, in that case, what I will try to do is to get the prints and get them to him by the end of next week, in some way.
- Mrs. B. Yes. He said he'd take any - [ANDY] sent him the most lovely ones.
- B. I know. It was rather curious that ANDY should have been sending them exactly at the moment that he wrote saying that was the one thing he wanted.
- Mrs. B. He didn't know that ANDY was sending them, did he?
- B. He didn't, no.

Exct. REVai
P-55570

f-33570.

Mrs. B. Actually, ANDY didn't know that he wanted them, did he?

B. No, neither party knew.

Mrs. B. They are beautiful.

B. Yes. I'm very glad - yes, I gather -

Mrs. B. ANTHONY, I don't like you -

B. Well, I'd like to.

Mrs. B. Are you sure?

B. Yes, certainly.

Mrs. B. I don't like you doing this.

B. No, I'd like to.

Mrs. B. I mean, ANDY did it on his own but if GUY asks -

B. No, well, I am delighted - delighted to do it.

Mrs. B. I'm sure TOM will - well, let TOM pay you back.

B. No, certainly not. No, I'd love to do it.

Mrs. B. Would you really?

B. Yes, I'd love to.

Mrs. B. Well, I'll see you and I'll show you GUY's last letter and then you can tell me anything you want me to say.

B. Yes. Thank you very much indeed. Good. Well, I'll do that and ring you up Monday or Tuesday.

Mrs. B. Yes, that's all right.

B. Right. Thank you very much. Good-bye.

10.01.

JW.

EXTRACT

227a

Extract for File No. : PF.604582 Name : BLUNDEN
 Original in File No. : PF.604529 (BURGESS) Vol. : 16 Serial : 798a Receipt Date : 31.8.56.
 Original from : Int. letter Under Ref. : Dated : 29.8.56.
 Extracted on : 3.9.56 by : FMM Section : D

Extract from Intercepted Letter to BURGESS from Mrs. BASSETT.

Hotel Metropole,
BRIGHTON.
29.8.56.

.....

I saw Anthony (BLUNT) who is now in Italy. I don't think (?) Pat was going with him. I also think that Pekin is out of the question. I'll have more to say about him when I see him again.

.....

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

Handwritten:
JMD
4-9-56

226

TOP SECRET PERSONAL

30 August, 1956.

PF.604582/D.1.

Dear

In my letter to [redacted] dated 13 June, 1956 I said that as soon as we could we would produce our assessment of the case of BLUNT.

2. I attach hereto a copy of the summary which we have produced based on earlier investigations; the formal interview with BLUNT which took place in this Office and a subsequent conversation I had with him.

3. We have not attempted to give an extended account of BLUNT's record or of the ramifications of the investigation after BURGESS's disappearance. It is in effect simply an attempt to put the final interrogation into its proper setting. Equally many of BLUNT's reactions after BURGESS's flight are open to diverse interpretations which at the present state of our knowledge have equal validity. In an attempt to be dispassionate we have therefore omitted references to this.

4. We are giving no further outside distribution to this paper other than to you and its distribution within this Office is of course equally strictly limited.

Yours

Courtenay Young.

[redacted]

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Enclosure 1.

TOP SECRET PERSONAL

A BRIEF EXAMINATION OF THE ESPIONAGE CASE AGAINST ANTHONY BLUNT

A. POLITICAL SYMPATHIES

There have been many reports which suggest strongly that before the war Anthony BLUNT was a Communist sympathiser. Contemporary traces in our records are far from conclusive, but subsequent information leaves little doubt on that score.

2. In 1935 BLUNT visited Russia leaving the U.K. on 16 August, 1935, and returning on 12 September. In the following year, a reliable source reported that BLUNT had accepted an invitation to lecture on art at the Marx Memorial Library. This is a Communist-controlled organisation and it is unlikely that anyone would be invited to lecture there unless he was considered to be in sympathy with its aims.

3. Since the flight of BURGESS, reports from contemporaries of BLUNT at Cambridge indicate that in some degree he had Communist sympathies. PHILBY remarked that BLUNT passed through a Marxist period. A source who was supervised by BLUNT as an undergraduate at Cambridge when the latter was a Fellow of Trinity has remarked that BLUNT was never a fully-fledged member of the Party but flirted with Communism. Another source reported in 1951 that BLUNT made no secret of having been a Communist in his youth but that he now implied that his views were more moderate. BLUNT himself has said that he was drawn into a Marxist group but qualified this by saying that the political application of Marxism never appealed to him. During the pre-war period when BURGESS in the eyes of the majority was going through a right-wing phase BLUNT said that he regarded his views then as anti-Fascist and that BURGESS remained a Marxist. This suggests that BLUNT was treated in confidence by BURGESS with regard to his real political feelings while BURGESS was passing through his overt right-wing stage.

4. Humphrey SLATER is reported at second hand to have recalled that while employed as a security officer at Boulogne BLUNT had been in close touch with French intellectual Communists or political left-wingers. The same source later stated to a member of this office that BLUNT was a covert member of the Communist Party while he was at Cambridge (this refers to a period before the war when BLUNT was a Fellow of Trinity).

5. These reports all tend to support a strong presumption that during the pre-war years at least he had in some degree Communist sympathies; from an idealistic point of view, therefore, he might have been prepared to act as a source of information in the anti-Fascist cause, even if that involved working for the Russians.

B. DIRECT EVIDENCE THAT ANTHONY BLUNT WAS A SOURCE OF BURGESS

6. Goronwy REES has stated that in about 1937 he met BURGESS again after a break in their acquaintanceship and they became close friends. BURGESS told him then that he was working on behalf of an anti-Fascist organisation collecting confidential political information. He asked Goronwy REES to help him. At the same time he stated that Anthony BLUNT was one of his other sources of information. REES at a later interview said that BURGESS had told him that BLUNT was one of his agents but that he did not want him to discuss the matter with BLUNT. REES has also stated that during a conversation he had with BLUNT in a park in London about six months later he had referred to the work on which BURGESS was engaged. From BLUNT's reply he understood that BLUNT recognised what he was talking about. The dialogue was said to have taken roughly the form of:-

REES: "You know what Guy is up to?"

BLUNT: "Yes"

/(BLUNT

(BLUNT has of course, with some reason, pointed out that REES' question admits of many and diverse interpretations)

7. BLUNT himself in a voluntary statement which he made following the disappearance of BURGESS said that a year or two before the war Guy BURGESS told him that he was working for an organisation which BLUNT later believed to be part of S.I.S. This work according to BLUNT BURGESS carried on in a highly cloak-and-dagger style. BLUNT later confirmed that BURGESS had said or implied that he was working for British Intelligence. BLUNT described his own function in relation to BURGESS' activities as being that of a "respectable friend". BLUNT in short has admitted that he fulfilled some sort of function in BURGESS' intelligence activities but has never admitted to having been conscious that they were carried on for the Comintern. REES, however, has made it clear in his statements that he realised BURGESS was working for the Russians.

8. REES has stated that BURGESS used to visit a shop in the East End of London to buy dungarees, and in company with BLUNT used to eat at a Chinese restaurant nearby. He has implied that these visits to the East End were connected with BURGESS' espionage communications. The shop and the site of the restaurant have been identified by Goronwy REES and his wife.

9. According to REES, when he broke with BURGESS as a result of the German-Soviet Pact, BURGESS told him that BLUNT had done exactly the same thing. This suggests, if Guy BURGESS spoke the truth, that if BLUNT had the same reaction as Goronwy REES to the German-Soviet Pact, he was conscious that BURGESS was working for Russia.

C. EVENTS FOLLOWING THE FLIGHT OF BURGESS

10. BLUNT was an intimate friend of Guy BURGESS. They shared the same emotional characteristics and had similar artistic interests, and it was generally recognised in BURGESS' circle that BLUNT was one of the persons closest to BURGESS. It was natural, therefore, that in the various repercussions among BURGESS' circles of friends BLUNT should figure prominently, and that during this period BURGESS' other friends or his relations should turn to BLUNT, consult him and share their emotions with him. From most of the large body of information on the reactions of BLUNT and the events following the flight of BURGESS no firm deduction can be drawn as to the exact relationship, from an intelligence point of view, between the two. There are, however, one or two points which suggest that the connection between BLUNT and BURGESS may not have been purely emotional and personal and that there may have been an espionage connection.

11. On the day before he left England, BURGESS deposited a locked despatch case at the Reform Club with the instructions that only BLUNT should have access to it. This case was collected by BLUNT on 6 June.

12. When BLUNT was told that BURGESS had disappeared with a Foreign Office official he immediately asked if it was MACLEAN. When BLUNT was later asked why he had named MACLEAN he said that BURGESS had told him that he was helping someone who was in some sex trouble and was being blackmailed. BLUNT knew that Donald MACLEAN was a homosexual and sprang to the conclusion that Donald MACLEAN was the friend whom BURGESS was helping and the one who had left the country with him. It is possibly significant that Anthony BLUNT's name appears in the notebook kept by Donald MACLEAN's secretary which listed outside telephone numbers which Donald MACLEAN had asked for.

13. REES consulted Anthony BLUNT before he volunteered the information to the Security Service that BURGESS before the war had been working for the Comintern and that he himself had been recruited by BURGESS as a source. According to REES BLUNT endeavoured to dissuade him from this course of action.

14. After the disappearance of BURGESS, Mr. Bell, Secretary of the Reform Club, received a message from a Mr. Stewart who telephoned and asked

/that

that Mr. Guy BURGESS should meet him outside the Athenæum. He asked that, failing Mr. BURGESS, Mr. BLUNT should be requested to keep the appointment.

D. INTRODUCTION OF ANTHONY BLUNT INTO THE SECURITY SERVICE

15. At the beginning of the war BLUNT joined the Field Security Police. When his name was first put up for vetting objections were made to it. It appears, however, that the objections were subsequently removed. He joined M.I.5. in June, 1940, having been introduced by Victor ROTHSCHILD. His engagement with M.I.5. terminated officially in November, 1945. The exact circumstances in which he joined M.I.5. are obscure, but do not appear to be unusual or sinister. (out)

E. POSSIBLE REFERENCES TO BLUNT FROM OTHER SOURCES

16. In view of BURGESS' known espionage activities and the considerations which have been set out very briefly above, it is not unreasonable that BLUNT should be considered as a candidate for one of the sources in British Intelligence concerning whom we have reports from a number of different sources.

17. The information about the sources in British Intelligence can be briefly recapitulated as follows:- (the reports may not refer to a single and identical person)

- (a) Was highly placed in British Intelligence and had some connection with Russia. (1942 or 1943) (GOUZENKO).
- (b) Reported that an important British agent was operating in Russia, but the individual handling the agent would not reveal his identity. (May 1942 to October 1943) (GOUZENKO).
- (c) Was a member of a high grade Intelligence Committee with which the figure five might be connected. (1943) (LIUBIMOV via GOUZENKO).
- (d) Was (presumably) one of the seven agents in the British Intelligence Service, and probably identical with the agent who was "Departmental Head of British Counter Espionage". (1945) (VOLKOV).
- (e) Worked in British Counter Intelligence Service and handed over to the R.I.S. for photographing British dossiers on members of the Russian Embassy in London who were under security investigation. (sometime prior to May 1944) (RAZIN via PETROV).
- (f) Went over to the Dubok method. (Sometime between May 1942 and October 1943) (GOUZENKO).
- (g) Warned ZABOTIN that a representative of the British 'greens' was due to arrive in Ottawa for the purpose of strengthening work against Russian agents in conjunction with the R.C.M.P. (Sometime in mid-1944 or early 1945) (GOUZENKO).
- (h) Reported to Moscow that documents had been stolen by the British from the Russian Military Attache's office in London and attempts had been made to telephoto the inside of the office. (Sometime in or before 1945) (ROGOV via GOUZENKO).
- (i) The high grade agent with the Russian background was still working in the U.K. sometime in 1945. (KOVLAKEFF via

/GOUZENKO).

COUZENKO).

18. There is a large number of people who would qualify in some respects to fill one or more of these roles, but examination of BLUNT's activities does show that he is a possible candidate for most of them:

- (a) He was, if not highly placed, at least extremely well placed in 1942-43 to obtain information from this office. Although he had no Russian background, he did visit Russia before the war.
- (b) It is not possible to make any deduction from this report.
- (c) BLUNT was a member of a small ad hoc committee for the dissemination of deception material through diplomatic channels

This committee would not strictly speaking qualify for the epithet high grade.

- (d) He was in no way a departmental head of British Counter Intelligence, but he was certainly moderately prominent in it.
- (e) BLUNT was at one time generally responsible for the watchers section and received copies of all observation reports; on occasions which are on record he did draw Russian diplomat's files. He thus had the necessary access to these dossiers.
- (f) This does not help one way or the other in identification.
- (g) It would appear that this refers to the visit paid by Captain Liddell to Ottawa in August 1944. BLUNT would certainly have known of this visit.
- (h) It has so far proved impossible to identify these alleged episodes and it does not help one way or the other with regard to identification.
- (i) BLUNT was still working in the office in 1945.

F. INTERROGATION OF BLUNT

19. On 6 June, 1951, after the disappearance of BURGESS, BLUNT made a voluntary statement. He was subsequently interviewed on several occasions by members of this Service. He admitted that he was aware that before the war Guy BURGESS was working in an intelligence organisation. He also implicitly admitted that he played some part in BURGESS' activities, though he described his own function as being "the respectable friend". Having admitted so much there is some suggestion that Anthony BLUNT felt as a result that he had "purged his soul".

20. On 15 May, 1956, BLUNT was subjected to a lengthy interrogation carried out by two members of this Service. The interrogation was recorded, so that there is an accurate verbatim reproduction of what was said. In this interrogation BLUNT was given the evidence for the Russians having one or more sources in British Intelligence. It was pointed out to him without any equivocation and with persistence that he was a strong candidate for this source. He was also confronted with the adverse points contained in state-

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ments made by Goronwy REES. BLUNT roundly denied that he had ever been a conscious agent and denied the accuracy of REES' statements, but made some admissions of negligence through which BURGESS might have acquired information. There has also, so far, been one subsequent interview.

21. The following are the main points of the interrogation:-

- (1) BLUNT was taken over the period immediately following the flight of BURGESS. Nothing new emerged from this review. BLUNT admitted that BURGESS had called on him on the morning of 25 May. He says that he appeared in better trim than earlier in the week. Looking back he thought BURGESS might have come to see him in order to make some sort of veiled farewell but changed his mind.
- (2) BLUNT was faced with REES' allegation that BLUNT had tried to dissuade him from going to see Captain Liddell after BURGESS' disappearance and revealing his knowledge of BURGESS' attempt to recruit him as an agent in BURGESS' work for the Comintern. BLUNT said that this was completely untrue. At a later interview BLUNT said it was possible that REES had combined two different incidents. He said that some two or three weeks after BURGESS' disappearance there had been a conversation at a dinner party about who was likely to leave next and the consensus of opinion was that the most likely candidate was BLUNT. This had been reported to BLUNT by a friend and REES had also got to hear of it. REES became very excited and insisted that there was a plot against BLUNT and that he, BLUNT, must take action. BLUNT said that at that time he was almost at the end of his tether and had told REES that he thought he would take no action. He alleged, however, that he had in fact told Captain Liddell. (We are attempting to verify this.) BLUNT felt that REES may have combined these two episodes into one and thus have been genuinely mistaken in his belief.
- (3) BLUNT was confronted with REES' allegation of their conversation in the park in which REES referred to BURGESS' activities (see B. above). BLUNT agreed that the conversation might have taken place but said it was ambiguous. REES may have been referring to BURGESS' Comintern activities, but BLUNT says he knew nothing of these and if the conversation did indeed take place he might have thought it referred to something else - e.g. BURGESS' sex life.
- (4) BLUNT has always stated that he had thought that BURGESS' activities were on behalf of British Intelligence. It was pointed out to BLUNT that when he joined M.I.5. and acquired a knowledge of intelligence organisations, he must have realised that BURGESS' pre-war activities ante-dated BURGESS' work in Section D, since the dates did not fit. BLUNT maintained that he merely knew that BURGESS was working for an English intelligence organisation. When BLUNT was pressed on this point he showed slight signs of embarrassment. (This was the only occasion during the interview when he appeared at all discomposd.)
- (5) BLUNT was informed of the VOLKOV episode and the catalogue which he provided. Reference was made to the "visit of British greens" and it was pointed out that this was the sort of information which BURGESS could have picked up from an M.I.5. contact such as BLUNT, Captain Liddell, or even the interrogator himself. BLUNT said he did not think he would have gossiped about such a thing, but modified his attitude on this point later.

/(6)

- (6) On the matter of the theft of the documents and the attempts to photograph the military attache's office BLUNT had no recollection of anything of that nature.
- (7) BLUNT was then told of the information regarding the source being a member of a high level committee. The interrogator referred to the XX Committee and mentioned the committee which BLUNT sat on. BLUNT himself produced the name, "TWIST". It was suggested to him that knowledge of this might have been derived from Bentinck Street gossip and BLUNT tacitly admitted that such gossip existed.
- (8) The interrogator then put to BLUNT information from RAZIN, namely that the source worked in British Counter Intelligence and handed over to the R.I.S. for photographing dossiers of members of the Russian Embassy who were under security investigation. It was pointed out to BLUNT that this narrowed the field virtually to BLUNT and two of his colleagues, Hugh Shillito and the interrogator Courtenay Young. BLUNT's comment was "This is a tough one". He said that one thing which worried him was that he had taken files back in the evening to Bentinck Street; he admitted that BURGESS had come quite frequently to the office and thought it possible that he had been left alone in his room. BLUNT could offer no real explanation. It was pointed out to him that it was unlikely that he would take that type of file home. This was really the most crucial point of the interrogation and at the conclusion of this phase BLUNT said "I think this is extremely obscure and I am sorry I cannot offer any help". BLUNT went on to say that BURGESS as a spy would have employed the same technique for building himself up as he used in his private life - that is, invention.
- (9) BLUNT later cited as a typical example of BURGESS' double-dealing that BURGESS had gone to Captain Liddell and said that REVAI, [redacted] was a Communist agent. He then told REVAI that he, REVAI, had been reported to the authorities as a Communist agent but that BURGESS had put it right.
- (10) BLUNT was told of REES' allegation that BURGESS used to go down to the East End to buy dungarees and used to eat at a Chinese restaurant nearby with BLUNT; he denied all knowledge of such expeditions and said that he never ate Chinese food. (This has been confirmed by Courtenay Young from personal knowledge.)

C. CONCLUSION

22. (1) Unless further significant information comes to light from other sources, it is unlikely that further interrogation of Anthony BLUNT will produce any conclusive result. If he was indeed a conscious source of BURGESS he has had plenty of time in which to make up his mind as to how much he can safely admit. He has been faced with all the available incriminating information and now probably realises that he need make no further admission. On the other hand it is hard to see how we could offer him any inducement to confess or apply any sanction to him which would constrain him to do so.

23. (2) The conflict of testimony between BLUNT and REES must at the moment be left unresolved. If REES' allegations are untrue, it is not absolutely clear why he should have fabricated them. Possibly he might have done it through personal spite and a feeling that, although BLUNT had been closely associated with BURGESS, he has got away scotfree in that he has not suffered in the same way as other of BURGESS' close associates such as PHILBY

* During the war at a maisonette at 5 Bentinck Street, there were living Anthony BLUNT, Guy BURGESS, Tess MAYOR and Pat RAWDON-SMITH. /and

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3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS
ACT 1958 October 2023

and FOOTMAN. Possibly as a result of the BURGESS affair REES has developed a hostile attitude towards homosexuality and this has inspired him to try and damage BLUNT. It is also possible that REES wishes to draw away attention from his own part in BURGESS' activities which he has probably understated. If REES' allegations are true, BLUNT's motive in prevaricating may be because he feels that if he makes any further admissions which are damaging to himself he may prejudice his present position. It is possible also, if BLUNT is to be believed, that REES, as regards one of the discrepancies, may have been genuinely in error. It does seem odd, however, that when he was being interrogated BLUNT did not put forward the perfectly plausible explanation which he produced over two months later in conversation with his interrogator. This may be the genuine answer to this discrepancy or it may be that BLUNT has in the interval thought up this story.

24. (3) BLUNT's demeanour under the interrogation seems to have been reasonably composed. This may be an indication that he is now being completely frank and telling the truth. On the other hand ever since the BURGESS case broke he must have realised that he was under suspicion and had a chance to prepare himself. The one point at which he was discomposed was when it was pointed out that it should have been evident to him that BURGESS' intelligence activities ante-dated his recruitment into Section D.

25. (4) During the crucial phase of the interrogation BLUNT made an admission about having been worried concerning the documents he took back to read in Bentinck Street. This remark can be taken at its face value. On the other hand BLUNT may have realised that he was in a tricky position and it is the sort of half admission of a lesser crime which, under pressure, he might have thought advisable to plead, in order to avoid being presumed guilty of the greater sin.

26. (5) It is impossible on the information so far available to come to any definite conclusion about BLUNT's role in BURGESS' network. He was a Communist sympathiser before the war. He has admitted having had some knowledge of BURGESS' pre-war activities and having played a restricted role in them. It is likely that if he was prepared to help BURGESS such a role would appeal to him more if these activities had a left-wing motive. That BLUNT was a source of BURGESS' must be a matter of such strong suspicion as to be almost a certainty, though at the same time it is not capable of proof. That he may be a candidate for one of the sources in British Intelligence reported by various defectors is a fair possibility. To what extent BLUNT was a conscious source it is impossible to say. It is indeed a question which BLUNT himself, even if he was being completely honest, might find it difficult to answer. He may have been vaguely aware of the cause which BURGESS was serving, but never admitted to himself that he was a Russian spy.

D.H. Whyte
D.H. Whyte.

D.1.
28.8.56.

Exh. t
PF
604,604
Llewellyn
Daines

SECRET*8/28/56**222a*

NAME: BLUNDEN

T.C. No.: 2992

Tel. No.: WEL 4181

Date: 17.8.56.

Responsible Section: D.I.a.



Outgoing call from BLUNDEN to WEL 8666. He was advised that calls were being referred to CUN 9090, until 9.45 this morning.
09.36.

Outgoing call from BLUNDEN to WEL 8666 for Dr. HERBERT, who was away on holiday. He spoke to Dr. PETRIE's secretary, who agreed to send him a prescription for his regular mild sedative pills.
09.50.

Outgoing call from BLUNDEN to SLO 1453 to PETER LUBBOCK, who asked him about his holiday in Ireland. PETER was, apparently, arranging for his journey to Rome. BLUNDEN did not know whether he would be returning from Rome or Milan. PETER would make out the ticket accordingly. BLUNDEN did not exactly when he would be returning. PETER said he had two doctors from San Francisco coming for drinks this evening and he understood that they were dining with BLUNDEN. The latter agreed - it had been arranged by JOHN. PETER agreed to come along with them for a drink in order to give BLUNDEN his tickets. They would come about 7.30.
10.01.

*P.A. on Blunden
& Buzgers.*

Outgoing call from BLUNDEN to Mrs. BASSETT.

B. I've been on to Dr. HERBERT and unfortunately he's away on holiday.

Mrs. B. Thank you so much.

B. I'm sorry.

Mrs. B. What a bother for you.

B. Not in the least. I'm sorry not to be any use. I expect - I imagine he'll be back in a fortnight or so but you may want to -

Mrs. B. Well, in the meantime, I saw Dr. CRIGHTON and I told him that you would ask - at least, I said a friend of mine is going to ask him but I said: 'I don't want to bother him if you can do it.' And he said: 'I see no reason why I shouldn't be able to get it done.'

B. Oh, good. That's all right then.

Mrs. B. I'll let you know if he doesn't get it done.

B. Good. Well, I'm afraid that I shall be away for - I'm back about -

Mrs. B. About 6 weeks?

B. Oh, no, only about 3. I shall be back round about September the 10th.

Mrs. B. Where are you going, BLUNDEN?

B. I'm going to Rome, which I hope is going to be fun.

Mrs. B. Oh, how lovely! Are you going to write a book or -

B. No. I'm going to do one job of work in Rome and all the rest pleasure. Then I'm going to wander off into the mountains and I don't know where I'm going and I'm not going to tell anyone. I'm not going to make any plans at all - no postal address.

Mrs. B. No that's a very good idea. Really free. Let me see you when you come back.

B. Yes, I will.

Mrs. B. I haven't said anything about you in my letter. I posted it yesterday, actually, and said that I hoped to see you soon. I didn't say I had.

B. Yes. We'll have a talk when I get back.

Mrs. B. I'll ... it out when I write, somehow you know.

B. Well, I think - I mean, I think we agreed on the main points.

Mrs. B. I shall just say that you quite agreed with what I had said - that I thought you would agree.

B. Yes.

Mrs. B. That will be all right.

B. Yes, it certainly - you can say and I think the answering GORONWY would be - I don't quite understand what he means about it in his letter but whatever it is, I think it would be (? possible.)

Mrs. B. I know what I was going to say. You know those other articles that are probably coming out?
? Tom Drilley's

B. Yes.

Mrs. B. Will Miss SCHEERER keep them for you or shall I?

B. Well, she is away, so if you could.

Mrs. B. I will. I don't think they'll be out yet but if they are, I will.

B. Would you? Thank you very much, yes. I'd be very grateful.

Mrs. B. Have a lovely time.

- B. Thank you so much. One other thing. I'm seeing ANDY REVAI tonight. You don't mind my telling him in general terms?
- Mrs. B. Not a bit.
- B. I know he'll very much want to know.
- Mrs. B. The other thing I was going to say. Shall I tell GUY, you're probably going to show GUY's letter, or not?
- B. Yes, if you like.
- Mrs. B. Are you probably going to do it, or not?
- B. Yes, I'm afraid I must. You see a propos PETER and so on - when my advice was asked, I said I thought they had to. So I can't very well not do it myself.
- Mrs. B. Of course.
- B. And anyhow, as ~~I didn't mind~~ GUY doesn't mind -
- Mrs. B. No, you see, what happened was, I wasn't really very keen on bringing them back.
- B. No, quite.
- Mrs. B. And he said: 'well, I don't care if they're (? opened.)' So, then I thought if they were taken at the Airport, you know, I was going to - GUY said I write it down in the letter so it won't give you any trouble. So that's quite allright.
- B. I'm sorry but it's just er -
- Mrs. B. The other thing I was going to say - Do you think when you see KIM that you ought to tell him that GUY can't (? say anything.) (together)
- B. Well, exactly, I quite agree.
- Mrs. B. Because I wouldn't like not like to tell her.
- B. No, exactly. That's a very good point.
- Mrs. B. Good-bye BLUNDEN. Thank you for ringing up and have a lovely time. Give me a ring when you get back.
- B. Thank you so much. I will, rather.

11.08.

221a

Note for file.

BLUNT telephoned to me on 16.8.56. to say that he had received a letter from Guy BURGESS which had been delivered to him by hand by Mrs. Bassett. He said that it contained little of interest but as we could not have seen it (!) he was prepared to show it to me if I so wanted. He was reluctant to put it in the post and it was ultimately arranged that I should go round and see him at the Courtauld Institute at 12.30 p.m. on 17.8.56.

2. I arrived at the time arranged and was with BLUNT until 1.45 p.m. The conversation was entirely cordial throughout and in the rather more relaxed atmosphere of a tête-à-tête in his flat as opposed to a tripartite interview in the Office it was easier to deal with points concerned with BLUNT's private life which though of no security interest might have caused embarrassment and hedging in the presence of a third party.

3. BURGESS's letter to him was of four pages much of it of little interest to us. He repeated his theme that he had done nothing wrong and had only acted according to his lights and that his lights were right; suggested that he might sometime come back for a visit and thanked BLUNT for all he had done to support Mrs. Bassett in the troubled times she had had after BURGESS's departure.

4. He invited BLUNT to revisit the Hermitage or if that was not acceptable to accompany him on a visit to Peking where he felt that they would both enjoy seeing the Summer Palace.

5. On the subject of [REES] BURGESS said that POLLOCK thought that REES was off his head. He, BURGESS himself, could not make up his mind but asked BLUNT's advice as to whether he, BLUNT, thought that he, BURGESS, should reveal the "Big Thing" which would finish REES.

6. I asked BLUNT what was the "Big Thing". He replied that he had not the faintest idea. I told him that in other correspondence which had been shown to us, i.e. that from POLLOCK, there had been mention of BURGESS being able to ruin REES if he wanted to and might not the two be connected. BLUNT said that BURGESS could no doubt reveal details of REES's private life which would be extremely defamatory. I gathered from BLUNT that REES had in his time slept with most of the leading female novelists in this country from Elizabeth Bowen to Rosamund Lehmann. (BLUNT added that in fact Elizabeth Bowen had written a novel about REES called "The Death of The Heart". I think he meant "To the North", in which 'Mark' has been said to be a portrait of REES.) He felt, however, that BURGESS could not be referring to this as no publication in this country would publish anything on those lines owing to the laws of libel.

7. The subject of REES having been raised, I said that I was still puzzled over the discrepancy between BLUNT's and REES's testimony on two matters. BLUNT thought that I was referring to the conversation in the park but I said that this might well have been a genuine misunderstanding and I was referring to two other discrepancies, the outstanding one being REES's statement that BLUNT had tried to dissuade him, REES, from coming to see Captain Liddell. There was a complete conflict there and as far as I could see either BLUNT was a liar or REES was. I said that, thinking with my heart rather than my head, I preferred to believe that the liar was REES. BLUNT then said, after a short pause, that there was a third possibility. He remembered that some two or three weeks after the publication of the news of the

Ext
Rees

PF. 604, 583 REES.

disappearance of BURGESS and MACLEAN he had been told of a conversation at a dinner party at which were present John Strachey and other persons who had at one time been Communists. At it the question of who would go next was mooted and his name was put next on the list. This had got to his ears (possibly I think from Victor Rothschild) and also to the ears of REES and the latter had said that he felt there must be a plot against BLUNT and that BLUNT should take the strongest possible action. BLUNT said that at that time he was practically at the end of his tether and his own inclination was to let the whole thing slide. He did say, however, that he mentioned the matter to Captain Liddell. He thought that it was possible that REES had muddled up this conversation with the conversation at Sonning before their first interview with Captain Liddell and thus produced the result as known to us from REES's statement.

8. BLUNT had heard from friends (unspecified) the story put about by REES that BLUNT had tried to dissuade him from coming to see the Security Service after BURGESS's flight. He was wondering whether these statements in conjunction with the articles in "The People" would give him a case against REES for libel or slander. I said that I was not qualified to give an opinion and BLUNT said that in any case he would not bring an action and anyway he would get no damages as he understood that the fee paid for the articles had been swallowed up by REES's overdraft.

9. He could throw no light upon the second discrepancy, i.e. the statement that he and BURGESS used occasionally to go to the East End to eat Chinese food and thought that this was a genuine lapse of memory by REES and anyway not important. (I must confess I am inclined to agree, especially having regard to the facts known to me that BLUNT is allergic to Chinese food.)

10. I asked him whether Mrs. Bassett had said anything of interest to him about BURGESS and her visit. He said that he felt that he was really not at liberty to tell me what Mrs. Bassett had told him and if I wanted to know I must get it from her direct. He did say, however, that BURGESS appeared to Mrs. Bassett to be tranquil and composed. I asked him whether he had attempted to justify his actions to his mother. BLUNT said that he gathered that BURGESS had told her a story sufficiently plausible not to be seen through by a doting mother but that when she had pressed him on certain points (not specified) he had not replied. He was not lonely in the sense of not having companions but did have a strong nostalgia for the Reform Club! BLUNT would not be drawn further or had no further information on any other exchange between Mrs. Bassett and her son.

11. BLUNT told me that he would not be replying to BURGESS's letter. He had asked Mrs. Bassett to send a message back to BURGESS stating that in his view no good and much harm might come out of BURGESS trying to do counter propaganda against REES; he would not contemplate visiting either the Hermitage or the Summer Palace under BURGESS's auspices. In this connection he mentioned that he was going to Italy on Sunday and before departure, as a member of the Royal Household, he had to receive through the Lord Chamberlain's office Her Majesty's approval to his travelling abroad. In this connection he was somewhat frustrated in his work as he passionately wanted to see, and indeed needed to see, some paintings by Nicholas Poussin which are in Dresden. He had in fact received an invitation to go to Germany to see them at Leipzig but had refused. One of the reasons why he had refused was that he had heard gossip from an unmalicious friend that if he did go everyone would say that he had gone behind the Iron Curtain to see BURGESS.

Ex. R. 604, 583 REES

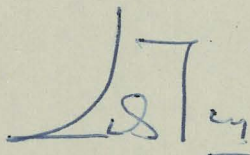
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12. BLUNT then said that he would like to ask my advice, as Courtenay Young rather than as a member of the Security Service, about Andrew REVAI. He said that REVAI had before BURGESS's flight applied for naturalisation but that this had been turned down by the Home Office. Captain Liddell had told him that the facts about REVAI as known to us had been stated clearly to the Home Office and that the decision to refuse naturalisation had been a Home Office one. BLUNT said that he understood that one of the points against REVAI was his return to Hungary after the war but that this though possibly subject to misinterpretation by us or the Home Office had been for purely honourable reasons. REVAI had later spoken to Hutson of the Home Office, who was a fellow member of the Reform, who had told REVAI that he, Hutson, could take no action officially as he was a personal friend of REVAI but that the decision to refuse naturalisation had been a Security Service one.

13. BLUNT said that he understood the reason for the second refusal of naturalisation, which took place after BURGESS's flight, but wondered whether there was going to be a perpetual ban on REVAI's naturalisation. He said that the only way it affected REVAI was that it made travel in and out of this country more difficult and that REVAI had at least once been subject to an extremely unpleasant experience on arrival in the United Kingdom when he had been questioned for a long time and then searched. This had reduced REVAI to a quivering jelly. I said that of course I was in no position to give any advice either as Courtenay Young or as a member of my Service but said that this might be one of the things which would sort themselves out in time. BLUNT said that he himself felt that REVAI ought to wait for about five years and then try again.

14. At the conclusion of our talk BLUNT showed me the two gifts sent to him by BURGESS, namely a small pot of caviar and a large white felt peaked hat with a white cotton fringe.



Courtenay Young.

D.1.
17.8.56.

SECRET

① C. Y. to see
 ② To Blunden main file.
 JAW
 16/8

NAME: BLUNDEN
 Tel. No.: WEL 1388
 Responsible Section: D.l.a.

T.C. No.: 2990
 Date: 16.8.56.



2195

Outgoing call from BLUNDEN for Mr. COURTNEY YOUNG, who was not in his room. A message was left asking him to ring BLUNDEN at this number.

11.02.

Incoming call to BLUNDEN from Mr. COURTNEY YOUNG.

- B. Good morning. How are you?
 Y. I'm very well. How are you?
 B. Very well thank you - slight hangover.
 Y. Oh dear! (laughing.)
 B. Look, COURTNEY, I wanted just to let you know that I've had a letter from our friend which his Mother brought back.
 Y. Yes.
 B. Which you, therefore, haven't seen. It's of no particular interest but I don't know if you want to see it.
 Y. Er - well could I?
 B. Yep. I'd rather not send it to you.
 Y. No, no, no.
 B. But if you'd like to come round.
 Y. Yes, I'll come round.
 B. The thing is I'm going off to Italy on Sunday.
 Y. Oh, yes. When would suit you?
 B. Well, really either before lunch - either about 12 o'clock today, or anytime tomorrow morning.
 Y. Tomorrow morning would be a bit easier; I've got somebody coming in (? at 12) today.
 B. Well, it's slightly better for me, actually.
 Y. Tomorrow morning - any time you like.
 B. Well, come round and have a drink about 12.30.
 Y. That would be lovely.
 B. Good.

Y. Excellent.

B. You know the way?

Y. I think I know the way, yes.

B. Good.

Y. Right. (I'll look around then. Au revoir.)

11.07.

JW.

SECRET

J.P.W.

18/8.

NAME: BLUNDEN

T.C. No.: 2993

Tel. No.: WEL 1074

Date: 15.8.56.
16.8.56.

Responsible Section: D.I.a.



Outgoing call from BLUNDEN to Radio Cabs ordering a taxi to come here as soon as possible. It was to go to Arlington House.
19.15.

*Main File.*** Mrs. Bennett leaving.*

16.8.56.

*Exct. Blund Main File
& Revai . . .*

Incoming call to BLUNDEN from ROBIN (CHANCELLOR) and ANDY (REVAI.) They chatted about their respective holidays. ANDY and BLUNDEN discussed when they could meet. BLUNDEN told him that he was going off to Italy on Sunday morning and the only possibility was tomorrow evening for a drink. ANDY said his friend, Bedwyth Johanne VON FRIENN (ph.) was coming for the week-end. BLUNDEN said he could come along too between 6 and 7; he would be delighted to see him. ANDY remarked: "I would like to have a few words with you alone." BLUNDEN replied: "Yes, I would too." JOHN (GASKIN) would be here and so he could entertain BEDWYTH for a few moments.

09.31.

JW.

Italy. 19. Aug.

2186

SECRET

NAME: BLUNDEN

T.C. No.: 2993

Tel. No.: WEL 1074

Date: 15.8.56.

Responsible Section: D.1.a.



Incoming call to BLUNDEN from Mrs. BASSETT.

Mrs. B. How are you?

B. I am very well. I was going to ring you this morning. I got back yesterday.

Mrs. B. I knew you were getting back yesterday. I'm going out fairly early and I was wondering when we could meet.

B. Well, now, what would suit you? I'm here - would before dinner this evening or tomorrow be all right?

Mrs. B. Yes. This evening would do very well.

B. Good. Now shall I come round to you, or would you like to come round here?

Mrs. B. I think I'd better come to you, don't you?

B. Well, it might be easier.

Mrs. B. I think so. What time now would suit you?

B. I don't mind at all. I shall be here really all the time.

Mrs. B. About 5. Would that be too early?

B. No, that would be perfect. How are you?

Mrs. B. I'm very well.

B. You sound awfully tired.

Mrs. B. Well, I am a bit tired now but I am very well and I was very well after the journey back. I was very tired when I got there but it did me so much good - I'll tell you all. How are you? Have you had a nice time?

B. I had a very nice time. Anyhow you're glad you went and -

Mrs. B. Oh, I'm very glad.

B. Oh, good.

Mrs. B. And I think you'll be pleased, you know, when we have a talk.

B. Good. Oh, I'm very glad.

Mrs. B. I'm very much more satisfied now.

B. Ah, well I'm glad to hear that, that's a great relief.

Mrs. B. Yes, it is a great relief.

B. Yes, I was rather apprehensive.

Mrs. B. Well, BLUNDEN, I will see you this afternoon. I will have had tea.

B. You're sure.

Mrs. B. Yes. I always have it rather early. I'll have had tea. Are you sure it's not too early for you?

B. About 5 is perfectly all right for me.

Mrs. B. All right, I'll come then.

B. Thank you so much.

Mrs. B. Good-bye.

09.26.

JW.

SECRET

*P.A. on Burgess.
Copy on Blunden
J.H.W.
9/xiii*

NAME: BLUNDEN

T.C. No.: 2992

Tel. No.: WEL 4181

Date: 4.8.56.

Responsible Section: D.I.a.

2176



Outgoing call from BLUNDEN to Col. BASSETT.

BL. Hallo. How are you? I'm afraid you've been having a troublesome time.

BA. Well, you know, it's been fairly quiet after the first outbreak. The first outbreak was very hectic.

BL. It must have been very hectic I'm afraid, yes. I am sorry.

BA. Well, I think on the whole I'm glad she's gone, you know.

BL. I'm glad.

BA. Well, I'm glad now because I think she'll get a little more peace of mind perhaps.

BL. Yes, I hope so.

BA. I expect her back very soon.

|| BL. You do. That's really what I was wondering - whether you had any news.

BA. Yes, well, I'm not talking about any particular date.

BL. No. Very wise.

BA. But very soon I expect her back.

BL. I really rang up because I'm going away to Ireland for ten days.

BA. When?

BL. Tomorrow morning - early.

BA. Well, I think she might be back when you come back.

BL. Well, I'm very grateful to know.

BA. I think she'll be back when you come back.

BL. Yes. Are you going to be able to get her out of London?

BA. Ooh! I don't think there'll be any necessity.

BL. Oh good. I thought the press would be -

- BA. I mean some of these people have tried to make a mystery of it but, I mean, there is none.
- BL. No. I simply thought there would be perpetual telephone calls.
- BA. Oh, well, I've got so used to that now. It's just answer no questions, make no comments.
- BL. Yes, it's the only thing.
- BA. Absolutely nothing; I haven't said a word to anybody. I mean there it is for everybody to see. I mean there is no question about and it's no use saying, yes, no, or anything at all.
- BL. Well, I mean, it's ludicrous to try and make a mystery of it.
- BA. Of course, absurd. There's no mystery at all. I mean it's all straight forward and actually it's been very properly and rightly reported in the press.
- BL. Yes, except by a couple of -
- BA. There have been a few blunders, of course, but generally speaking it's all been quite correct.
- BL. Yes, except for about one paper.
- BA. What?
- BL. Except for - what was it? The Express.
- BA. I don't - I haven't been out buying all the papers.
- BL. Very wise.
- BA. I've just got the papers we take generally; the Express, the Mail and The Times.
- BL. I think it was only the Express and the Mail that I saw who were running it a little bit -
- BA. Well, the Express tried to make some mystery of it. How she went away under an assumed name and all that nonsense. (He laughed.) Anyhow as far as I can make out she's been having a wonderful time.
- BL. Good. You have had letters?
- BA. Yes, I've had one or two.
- BL. I'm glad.
- BA. What they put in the papers is quite correct. Sunbathing, speedboating, motoring -
- BL. Good.
- BA. I don't think - of course, I don't understand the situation; I can't pretend to but it seems to me that everything is all right.

BL. Oh, good, well I'm relieved.

BA. I don't think there'll be much trouble when she does come back.

BL. I'm glad.

BA. I mean, I don't mind, when the telephone rings I just tell them to go to hell.

BL. Go to hell, yes.

BA. It's a nuisance of course but -

BL. It is, yes. Well, I hope you won't have too much of it.

BA. Well, you're going away tomorrow, are you?

BL. I'm going away very early tomorrow morning.

BA. I see.

BL. And I'll - well, I will no doubt see it in the newspapers - what's happening.

BA. I expect so, yes. I should think so; I don't know, they may not.

BL. Well, all the better.

BA. They may or may not. It doesn't matter if they do. She's gone and come back, that's all.

BL. That's all there is to it, yes. Well, I'll ring up if I may when I get back.

BA. Yes, do. You'll be away about 10 days?

BL. Yes, I think I shall get back ~~about~~ Tuesday week.

BA. I see. Thanks very much for ringing up.

BL. Thank you very much. I'm glad to know that -

BA. Good-bye.

BL. Good-bye.

17.11.

JW.

DRAFT

Number Paragraph
Surnames in Caps

217a

A BRIEF EXAMINATION OF THE ESPIONAGE CASE
AGAINST ANTHONY BLUNT

A. POLITICAL SYMPATHIES

There have been many reports which suggest strongly that before the war Anthony BLUNT was a Communist sympathiser. Contemporary traces in our records are far from conclusive, but subsequent ^{information} reports leaves little doubt on that score. ¶ In 1935 BLUNT visited Russia leaving the U.K. on 16 August, 1935, and returning on 12 September. In the following year, ~~1936~~, a reliable source reported that BLUNT had accepted an invitation to lecture on art at the Marx Memorial Library. This is a Communist-controlled organisation and it is unlikely that anyone would be invited to lecture there unless he was considered to be in sympathy with its aims.

Since the flight of BURGESS, reports from contemporaries of BLUNT at Cambridge indicate that in some degree he had Communist sympathies. PHILBY remarked that BLUNT passed through a Marxist period. A source who was supervised by BLUNT as an undergraduate at Cambridge when the latter was a fellow of Trinity has remarked that BLUNT was never a fully-fledged member of the Party but flirted with Communism. Another source reported in 1951 that BLUNT made no secret of having been a Communist in his youth but that he now implied that his views were more moderate. BLUNT himself has said that he was drawn into a Marxist group but qualified this by saying that the political application of Marxism never appealed to him. During the pre-war period when BURGESS in the eyes of the majority was going through a right-wing phase BLUNT said that he regarded his views then as anti-Fascist and that BURGESS remained a Marxist. This suggests that BLUNT was treated in confidence by BURGESS with regard to his real political feelings while BURGESS was passing through his overt right-wing stage.

Humphrey SLATER is reported at second hand to have recalled that while employed as a security officer at Boulogne BLUNT had been in close touch with French intellectual Communists or political left-wingers. The same source later stated to a member of this office that BLUNT was a covert member of the Communist Party while he was at Cambridge (this refers to a period ^{before the war} when BLUNT was a Fellow of Trinity).

/ These

These reports all tend to support a strong presumption that ~~into~~ ^{at least} during the pre-war years, he had in some degree Communist sympathies; from an idealistic point of view, therefore, he might have been prepared to act as a source of information in the anti-Fascist cause, even if that involved working for the ^{Russians} Comintern.

B. DIRECT EVIDENCE THAT ANTHONY BLUNT WAS A SOURCE OF BURGESS

Goronwy REES has stated that in about 1937 he met BURGESS again after a break in their acquaintanceship and they became close friends. BURGESS told him then that he was working on behalf of an anti-Fascist organisation collecting confidential political information. He asked Goronwy REES to help him. At the same time he stated that Anthony BLUNT was one of his other sources of information. REES at a later interview said that BURGESS had told him that BLUNT was one of his agents but that he did not want him to discuss the matter with BLUNT. REES has also stated that during a conversation he had with BLUNT in a park in London about six months later he had referred to the work on which BURGESS was engaged. From BLUNT's reply he understood that BLUNT recognised what he was talking about. The dialogue was said to have taken roughly the form of:-

REES: "You know what Guy is up to?"

BLUNT: "Yes"

(BLUNT has of course, with some reason, pointed out that REES' question admits of many and diverse interpretations)

BLUNT himself in a voluntary statement which he made following the disappearance of BURGESS said that a year or two before the war Guy BURGESS told him that he was working for an organisation which BLUNT later believed to be part of S.I.S. This work according to BLUNT BURGESS carried on in a highly cloak-and-dagger style. BLUNT later confirmed that BURGESS had ^{said} (told) or implied that he was working for British intelligence. BLUNT described his own function in relation to BURGESS's activities as being that of a "respectable friend". BLUNT in short has admitted that he fulfilled some sort of function in BURGESS's intelligence activities but has never admitted to having been conscious that they were carried on for the Comintern. REES however has made it clear in his statements that he realised BURGESS was working for the Russians.

REES has stated that BURGESS used to visit a shop in the East End of London to buy dungarees, and in company with BLUNT used to eat at a Chinese restaurant nearby. He has implied that these visits to the East End were connected with BURGESS' espionage communications. The shop and the site of the restaurant have been identified by Goronwy REES and his wife.

According to REES, when he broke with BURGESS as a result of the German-Soviet Pact, BURGESS told him that BLUNT had done exactly the same thing. This suggests, if Guy BURGESS spoke the truth, that if BLUNT had ~~done~~ the same reaction as Goronwy REES to the German-Soviet Pact, he was conscious that BURGESS was working for Russia.

C. Events Following BLUNT'S REACTIONS TO THE FLIGHT OF BURGESS

BLUNT was an intimate friend of Guy BURGESS. They shared the same emotional characteristics and had ~~the same~~ ^{similar} artistic interests, and it was generally recognised ~~that~~ in BURGESS's circle that BLUNT was one of the persons closest to BURGESS. It was natural, therefore, that in the various repercussions among BURGESS's circles of friends BLUNT should figure prominently, and that during this period BURGESS's other friends or his relations should turn to BLUNT, consult him and share their emotions with him. From most of the large body of information on the reactions of BLUNT and the events following the flight of BURGESS no firm deduction can be drawn as to the exact relationship, from an intelligence point of view, between the two. There are, however, one or two points which suggest that the connection between BLUNT and BURGESS may not have been purely emotional and personal and that there may have been an espionage connection.

On the day before he left England, BURGESS deposited a locked despatch case at the Reform Club with the instructions that only BLUNT should have access to it. This case was collected by BLUNT on 6 June.

When BLUNT was told that BURGESS had disappeared with a Foreign Office official he immediately asked if it was MACLEAN. ~~This has been explained by Anthony BLUNT as resulting from the fact~~ ^{When Blunt was later asked why he had named Maclean he said having been suggested by} that BURGESS had told him ~~previously~~ that he was helping someone who was in some sex trouble and was being blackmailed. BLUNT knew that Donald MACLEAN was a homosexual and

in Russia, but the individual handling the agent would not reveal his identity. (May 1942 to October 1943) (GOUZENKO).

- (c) ~~He~~ Was a member of a high grade Intelligence Committee with which the figure five might be connected. (1943) (LIUBIMOV via GOUZENKO).
- (d) ~~He~~ Was (presumably) one of the seven agents in the British Intelligence Service, and probably identical with the agent who was "Departmental Head of British Counter Espionage". (1945) (VOLKOV).
- (e) Worked in British Counter Intelligence Service and handed over to the R.I.S. for photographing British dossiers on members of the Russian Embassy in London who were under security investigation. (Sometime prior to May 1944) (RAZIN via PETROV).
- (f) Went over to the Dubok method. (Sometime between May 1942 and October 1943) (GOUZENKO).
- (g) Warned ZABOTIN that a representative of the British 'greens' was due to arrive in Ottawa for the purpose of strengthening work against Russian agents in conjunction with the R.C.M.P. (Sometime in mid-1944 or early 1945) (GOUZENKO).
- (h) Reported to Moscow that documents had been stolen by the British from the Russian Military Attache's office in London and attempts had been made to telephoto the inside of the office. (Sometime in or before 1945) (ROGOV via GOUZENKO).
- (i) The high grade agent with the Russian background was still working in the U.K. sometime in 1945. (KOVLAKOFF via GOUZENKO).

#

There is, ~~no doubt~~, a large number of people who would qualify in some respects to fill one or more of these roles, but examination of BLUNT's activities does show that he is a ^{possible} ~~strong~~ candidate *for most of them:*

(a) He was, if not highly placed, at least extremely well placed in 1942-43 to obtain information from this office. Although he had no Russian background, he did visit Russia before the war.

(b) It is not possible to ^{make} ~~draw~~ any ^{from} ~~firm~~ deduction ~~on~~ this ~~report~~;

(c) BLUNT was a member of a small ad hoc ^(on deception) ~~(deception)~~ committee for the dissemination of deception material through diplomatic channels

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This committee /would

would not strictly speaking qualify for the epithet high grade.

(d) He was in no way ^{a departmental/} head of British Counter Intelligence, but he was certainly moderately prominent in it.

(e) BLUNT was at one time generally responsible for the watchers section and received copies of all observation reports; on occasions which are on record he did draw Russian diplomat's files. He thus had the necessary access to these dossiers.

(f) This does not help one way or the other in identification.

(g) It would appear that this refers to the visit paid by Captain Liddell to Ottawa in August 1944. BLUNT would certainly have known of this visit.

(h) It has so far proved impossible to identify these alleged episodes and it does not help one way or the other with regard to identification.

(i) BLUNT was still working in the office in 1945.

F. INTERROGATION OF BLUNT

On 6 June ^{1951, after} following the disappearance of BURGESS, BLUNT made a voluntary statement. He was subsequently interviewed on several occasions by members of this Service. He admitted that he was aware that before the war Guy BURGESS was working in an intelligence organisation. He also implicitly admitted that he played some part in BURGESS's activities, though he described his own function as being "the respectable friend". Having admitted so much there is some suggestion that Anthony BLUNT felt as a result that he had "purged his soul."

On 15 May ¹⁹⁵⁶ of ~~this year~~ BLUNT was subject ^{ed/} to a lengthy interrogation carried out by two members of this Service. The interrogation was recorded, so that there is an accurate verbatim reproduction of what was said. In this interrogation BLUNT was given the evidence for the Russians having one or more sources in British Intelligence. It was pointed out to him without any equivocation and with persistence that he was a strong candidate for this source. He was also confronted with the adverse points

contained in statements made by Goronwy REES. BLUNT roundly denied that he had ever been a conscious agent and denied the accuracy of REES' statements, but made some admissions of negligence through which BURGESS might have acquired information. *There has also ^{so far} been, one subsequent interview.*

The following are the main points of the interrogation:-

(1) BLUNT was taken over the period immediately following the flight of BURGESS. Nothing new emerged from this review. BLUNT

*intransigent
verb!
2 confused
combined*

X At a later ^{combined} interview BLUNT said it was possible that REES had ~~coalesced~~ ^{two} two different incidents. He said that some two or three weeks after BURGESS's disappearance there had been a conversation at a dinner party about who was likely to leave next and the ^s consensus of opinion was that the most likely candidate was BLUNT. This had been reported to BLUNT by a friend and REES had also got to hear of it. REES ~~has~~ ^{become} become very excited and insisted that there was a plot against BLUNT and that he, BLUNT, must take action. BLUNT said that he at that time ^{he} was almost at the end of his tether and had told REES that he thought he would take no action. He alleged, however, that he had in fact told Captain Liddell. (We are attempting to verify this.) BLUNT felt that REES may have combined these two episodes into one and thus ^{have} been genuinely mistaken in his belief. X

out to BLUNT that when he joined MI5 and acquired a knowledge of intelligence organisations, he must have realised that BURGESS's pre-war activities antedated BURGESS's work in Section D, since the dates did not fit. BLUNT maintained that he merely knew that BURGESS was working for an English intelligence organisation. When BLUNT was pressed on this point he showed slight signs of embarrassment. (This was the only occasion during the interview when he appeared at all discomposed).

(5) BLUNT was informed of the VOLKOV episode and the catalogue

/which

contained in statements made by Goronwy REES. BLUNT roundly denied that he had ever been a conscious agent and denied the accuracy of REES' statements, but made some admissions of negligence through which BURGESS might have acquired information. *There has also, ^{so far} been, one subsequent interview.*

The following are the main points of the interrogation:-

- (1) BLUNT was taken over the period immediately following the flight of BURGESS. Nothing new emerged from this review. BLUNT admitted that BURGESS had called on him on the morning of 25 May. He says that he appeared in better trim than earlier in the week. Looking back he thought BURGESS might have come to see him in order to make some sort of veiled farewell but changed his mind.
- (2) BLUNT was faced with REES' allegation that BLUNT had tried to dissuade him from going to see Captain Liddell after BURGESS's disappearance and revealing his knowledge of BURGESS's attempt to recruit him as an agent in BURGESS's work for the Comintern. BLUNT said that this was completely untrue. **X X**
- (3) BLUNT was confronted with REES' allegation of their conversation in the Park π in which REES referred to BURGESS's activities (see *B. above*). BLUNT agreed that the conversation might have taken place but said it was ambiguous. REES may have been referring to BURGESS's Communist activities, but BLUNT says he knew nothing of these and if the conversation did indeed take place he might have thought it referred to something else - e.g. BURGESS's sex life.
- (4) BLUNT has always stated that he had thought that BURGESS's activities were on behalf of British Intelligence. It was pointed out to BLUNT that when he joined MI5 and acquired a knowledge of intelligence organisations, he must have realised that BURGESS's pre-war activities antedated BURGESS's work in Section D, since the dates did not fit. BLUNT maintained that he merely knew that BURGESS was working for an English intelligence organisation. When BLUNT was pressed on this point he showed slight signs of embarrassment. (This was the only occasion during the interview when he appeared at all discomposed).
- (5) BLUNT was informed of the VOLKOV episode and the catalogue

/which

which he provided. Reference was made to the "visit of British greens" and it was pointed out that this was the sort of information which BURGESS could have picked up from an MI5 contact such as BLUNT, Captain Liddell, or even the interrogator himself. BLUNT said he did not think he would have gossiped about such a thing, but modified his attitude on this point later.

(6) On the matter of the theft of the documents and the attempts to ^{graph} photo the military attache's office BLUNT ^{had} has no recollection of anything of that nature.

(7) BLUNT was then told of the information regarding the source being a member of a high level committee. The interrogator referred to the XX Committee and mentioned the committee which BLUNT sat on. BLUNT himself produced its name, "TWIST". It was suggested to him that knowledge of this might have been derived from Bentinck Street gossip ^{*} and BLUNT tacitly admitted that such gossip existed.

(8) The interrogator then put to BLUNT information from RAZIN, namely that the source worked in British Counter Intelligence and handed over to the R.I.S. for photographing dossiers of members of the Russian Embassy who were under security investigation. It was pointed out to BLUNT that this narrowed the field virtually to BLUNT and two of his colleagues, Hugh SHILLITOE and the interrogator Courtenay Young. BLUNT's comment was "This is a tough one". He said that one thing which worried him was that ^{he had} ~~having~~ taken files back in the evening to Bentinck Street; he admitted that BURGESS had come quite frequently to the office and thought it possible that he had been left alone in his room. BLUNT could offer no real explanation. It was pointed out to him that it was unlikely that he would take that type of file home. This was really the most crucial point of the interrogation and at the conclusion of this phase BLUNT said: "I think this is extremely obscure and I am sorry I cannot offer any help". BLUNT went on to say that BURGESS as a spy would have employed the same technique for building himself up as he used in his private life - that is, invention.

* During the war ^{at} a maisonette at 5 Bentinck Street, / (19) ..
there were living Antony Blunt, Gus Burgess, Tess Mayer, ^{and} Pat Rawdon-Smith.

(9) BLUNT later cited as a typical example of BURGESS's double-dealing that BURGESS had gone to Captain ^{Liddell} ~~Liddell~~ and said that REVAI, [redacted] was a Communist agent. He then told REVAI that he, REVAI, had been reported to the authorities as a Communist agent but that BURGESS had put it right.

(10) BLUNT was told of REES' allegation that BURGESS used to go down to the East End to buy dungarees and used to eat at a Chinese restaurant nearby with BLUNT; he denied all knowledge of such expeditions and said that he never ate Chinese food. (This has been confirmed by Courtenay Young from personal ~~experience~~ knowledge).

G. CONCLUSION

(1) Unless further significant information comes to light from other sources, it is unlikely that further interrogation of Anthony BLUNT will produce ^{any} ~~more~~ conclusive results. If he was indeed a conscious source of BURGESS he has had plenty of time in which to make up his mind as to how much he can safely admit. He has been faced with all the available incriminating information and now probably realises that he need make no further admission. On the other hand it is hard to see how we could offer him any inducement to confess or apply any sanction to him which would constrain him to do so.

(2) The conflict of testimony between BLUNT and REES must at the moment be left unresolved. If REES' allegations are untrue, it is not absolutely clear why he should have fabricated them. Possibly he might have done it through personal spite and a feeling that, although BLUNT had been closely associated with BURGESS, he ^{has} got away scotfree in that he has not suffered in the same way as other of BURGESS's close associates such as PHILBY and FOOTMAN. Possibly as a result of the BURGESS affair REES has developed a hostile attitude towards homosexuality and this has inspired him to try and damage BLUNT. It is also possible that REES wishes to ~~draw~~ draw away attention from his own part in BURGESS's activities which he has probably ^{under stated/} ~~minimized~~. If REES' allegations are true, BLUNT's motive in prevaricating may be ^{that because} ~~because~~ he feels that if he makes any further admissions which are damaging to himself he may prejudice his present position. X...X

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(3) BLUNT's demeanour under the interrogation seems to have been reasonably composed. This may be an indication that he is ^{now} being completely frank and telling the truth. On the other hand ever since the BURGESS case broke he must have realised that he was under suspicion and had a chance to prepare himself. The one point at which he was discomposed was when it was pointed out that it should have been evident to him that BURGESS's intelligence activities antedated his recruitment into Section D.

(4) During the crucial phase of the interrogation BLUNT made an admission about having been worried concerning the documents he took

X It is possible also, if BLUNT is to be believed, that REES, as regards one of the discrepancies, may have been genuinely in error. It does seem odd, however, that when ~~under~~ ^{being interrogated} he was ^{put forward} ~~interrogation~~ BLUNT did not ~~produce~~ the perfectly plausible explanation ^{which} he ~~in fact~~ produced over two months later in conversation with his interrogator. This may be the genuine answer to this discrepancy or it may be that BLUNT has in the interval thought up this story. X

(~~demonstratable~~) proof. That he may be a candidate for one of the sources in British Intelligence reported by various defectors is a fair possibility. To what extent BLUNT was a conscious source it ^(comprehensively) will never be possible to say. It is ^(indeed) a question which BLUNT himself, even if he was being completely honest, might find it difficult to answer. He may have been vaguely aware of the cause which ^{Burgess} was serving, but never admitted to himself that he was a Russian spy.

SECRET

216a

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