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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Philby, Burgess and MacLean

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PART # 7 of 9

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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XEROX COPY

SECTION 8

SAC, Cincinnati

March 9, 1953

Director, FBI [REDACTED]

REUW

DONALD DUART MacLEAN;  
GUY FRANCIS de HONCY BURGESS.  
ESPIONAGE - R

Reference is made to the memorandum from  
the Cincinnati Office dated February 16, 1953. While  
the Bureau considers it unlikely that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] actually saw Mac Lean and Burgess in France, it is  
necessary that you obtain additional details from them.  
This information is needed so the Bureau can make appropriate  
dissemination abroad. You should reinterview [REDACTED].  
[REDACTED], determine exactly where it was they reportedly  
saw Mac Lean and Burgess, did they merely see them driving  
an automobile, or did they have an opportunity to closely  
observe them. Attempt to fix the date of the occasion  
more accurately and obtain a description of the two  
individuals they saw, and a description of the automobile.  
A photograph of Mac Lean and a photograph of Burgess are  
enclosed which should be exhibited to [REDACTED].

The results of your interview with these two  
individuals should be submitted to the Bureau in report  
form.

C, PL  
C, SG:

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (PM)

DATE: 2-16-53

FROM : SAC, CINCINNATI [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: GUY FRANCIS;  
MONCY BURGESS  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

The following information is submitted for any action deemed appropriate.

On January 21, 1953, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised he had been reading an article in "The Reporter" magazine, dated December 23, 1952, which article was captioned "The Case of the Missing Diplomate", Page 28. He said that he and his wife had seen the subjects on a Tuesday, the exact date unknown, but recalls that it was before July of 1951. [REDACTED] stated that the subjects were English and driving a sports car through LaFuerche-De-Pretagne, France. [REDACTED] stated that he felt foolish in coming to the FBI Office to give such a small amount of information, but offered this information for what value it may be worth. He said that the sight of any Englishmen in this particular part of France was not commonplace and that, therefore, he sincerely believes that these two men were the subjects. He said that he has no further information on the subjects.

to Red territory in Austria. Karl is described as follows:

Age	50
Height	5'9"
Weight	170 pounds
Hair	Fair, balding, gray at temples
Complexion	Yellowish
Eyes	Blue-grey with tendency to squint
Peculiarities	Slit-line mouth, thin lips, rounding chin, uses pince-nez or heavy tortoise-shell glasses to vary his appearance
Scars and Marks	Drooping underlip from a scar which is partially obscured by a full blonde-gray mustache.

January 19, 1953

Re: [REDACTED]

Drew Pearson, in his newspaper column, "The Washington Merry-Go-Round," entitled "Red Agent Enticed Allied Aides," which appeared in the "Washington Post" newspaper for Monday, January 12, 1953, reported that Italian and Allied authorities now believe a top Soviet agent in Western Europe was the Soviet mastermind behind the abduction of Bruno Pontecorvo, Guy Burgess, Donald Maclean, Noel Field, and other members of the Field family. This Soviet agent is identified as "H. Karl," who reportedly has many assumed names, travels alternately on four different passports, speaks six languages, and is the most accomplished spy in Europe today. According to the article, Karl was born in Austria, and began espionage work with the Nazis. He reportedly worked with Admiral Canaris' Nazi spy group in the Middle East and later planted the Albanian valet on the British Ambassador in Istanbul, thereby permitting Hitler to obtain the British secret code and size of the Allies' top war secrets.

Karl reportedly switched his allegiance to Russia in early 1944, and has been one of Russia's top agents ever since.

According to the article, Karl was in Prague when Noel Field was kidnapped and was believed to have been instrumental in enticing other members of the Field family behind the Iron Curtain. The article states that Allied authorities give Karl almost sole credit for "sneaking" British scientist Bruno Pontecorvo behind the Iron Curtain. Allied authorities reportedly believe that Karl had contacts with Pontecorvo in England and arranged to meet Pontecorvo during the scientist's vacation at Milan, Italy. The article states that Burgess and Maclean are believed to have been lured to a point near Udine, Italy, through a combination of blackmail and bribery. From Udine they are reported to have been flown in a private plane without customs clearance

SAC, SAN FRANCISCO

DIRECTOR, FBI [REDACTED]

DONALD DUART MACLEAN  
GUY FRANCIS de MONCY BURGESS  
ESPIONAGE - R

February 1, 1952

PERSONAL ATTENTION [REDACTED]

The above data and other information contained in this memorandum relative to Philby is to be considered strictly confidential and is not to be placed in report form or otherwise disseminated by you outside the Bureau under any circumstances.

Bureau Investigation in Spain

[REDACTED] has advised that he first became acquainted with Philby in Spain during 1939. This acquaintanceship continued until Philby departed from Spain in August of that year. Philby was at that time with the "London Times," and was divorced from his former wife, who had gone off with [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The source advised that he never met this former wife of Philby's and he does not recall that she was ever referred to as "Alice." He suggested that since she was of Austro-Hungarian origin, she was spoken of by her Austro-Hungarian name, which, when anglicized would be "Alice."

The same source advised that while Philby was in Spain he was living with [REDACTED] He stated that Philby, at one time, had intentions of marrying this actress, [REDACTED] The source advised that he understood Philby's divorced wife, in August, 1939, was still living with [REDACTED] in Paris. He suggested that [REDACTED] whom he believed to be living in Hollywood, might be able to furnish additional information which might be more accurate because he understood [REDACTED] always kept a diary.

The same source advised that he learned after Philby left Spain his former wife was an Austro-Hungarian, whom he married in 1935 in order to get her out of Hungary with a British passport. He believes they were married at the British Legation in Budapest, but the marriage was of very short duration.

[REDACTED]

This source could give no information concerning Philby's visits to Spain prior to 1939, but said he was told Philby came to Spain immediately after graduating from the University at Cambridge to investigate a rice growing project in the swamps of the Guadalquivir River.

t 10

## Office Memorandum • UNITED GOVERNMENT

TO: Director, FBI [REDACTED]  
FROM: SAC, Savannah [REDACTED]  
SUBJECT: DONALD DUART MACLEAN;  
GUY FRANCIS de MONCY BURGESS  
ESPIONAGE - R

DATE: February 11, 1952

Rebulet October 17, 1951.

Review of file discloses unsettled question re BURGESS' possible stay at the Carlton Motor Court near Myrtle Beach, S. C., as set out in report SA [REDACTED], Savannah, October 4, 1951.

It is noted that the registration cards at the Carlton Motor Court are filed alphabetically, not by dates, and they have been reviewed on three occasions for subject's name and known aliases, without results.

Both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] have insisted that if the person staying at their place in February 1951 were indeed BURGESS, that person registered as [REDACTED].

It does not appear, however, essential that any further inquiry be made in this matter, unless for reasons not evident in the Savannah file it is important to establish BURGESS' stay at the Carlton Motor Court.

It appears the [REDACTED] are in error and the records disclose nothing. UACB this matter is considered RUC.

ACS:AMT

cc: Washington Field [REDACTED]

||

Office Mem

um • UNITED S

GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI [REDACTED]

DATE: January 3, 1952

FROM : SAC, WFO [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: DONALD DUART MACLEAN;  
GUY FRANCIS de MONCY BURGESS  
ESPIONAGE - R

ATTENTION: [REDACTED]

Remylet June 19, 1951, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was again contacted on January 2, 1952 for more detailed explanation as to the original location of this number and the circumstances surrounding it.

[REDACTED] was unable to explain exactly where the number was located, although he was originally told that it came from the room or home of BURGESS. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. The original typewritten list of names and numbers furnished by [REDACTED] had been retained in this office, and was displayed to [REDACTED] to refresh his memory. The list had been typed by the British informant from notes believed to have been in the handwriting of BURGESS. [REDACTED] confirmed his original statement that the names and numbers set forth on page 2 of reference letter had emanated from BURGESS' office and the several remaining names and numbers had come from BURGESS' room at the PHILBY residence. These latter included: [REDACTED], Metropolitan Hill and the number Ordway 2914. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Thereafter he advised that he had displayed the list to his informant, who recognized the list and verified the fact that part of the names and numbers came from BURGESS' office and part from PHILBY's home, where BURGESS resided. He further explained that when this case broke, he had visited the PHILBY home and things were in considerable turmoil. He advised he had examined BURGESS' room, which was located in the basement, and thereafter examined the phone book near the phone, which was located upstairs. He told [REDACTED] that he had copied written material in both places and believed that the number Ordway 2914 had come from the telephone book. At this time he was unable to recall any remarks of [REDACTED] with reference to this number. [REDACTED]

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. LADD  
FROM : MR. BELMONT *JL*  
SUBJECT: DONALD DUART MacLEAN,  
GUY FRANCIS de MENCY BURGESS  
ESPIONAGE - R

DATE: Janucry 4, 1952

In your memorandum to me of December 28, 1951, which is attached, you pointed out that [REDACTED] had referred to the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] in this case dated August 15, 1951, and made reference to page 101 wherein it is stated that Burgess had called Ordway 2914 on occasions and that calls for him had been received from that number. Ordway 2914 is the phone number of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] had recontacted this individual who stated that part of the names and numbers furnished by [REDACTED] to us came from Burgess' office and part from Philby's home where Burgess resided. [REDACTED] source stated he had examined Burgess' room which was located in the basement and thereafter examined the phone book which was near the phone upstairs. He had copied written material in both places and believed the number Ordway 2914 had come from the telephone book. [REDACTED] also stated that certain of the numbers had emanated from Burgess' office.

It might be noted that we previously knew that [REDACTED] during his association with Philby, had been in contact with Burgess on certain occasions.

RECOMMENDATION

In view of the fact that we have been unable to clarify this matter any further it is recommended that the Liaison Section contact [redacted] and inform him that our source received the matter from a subsource who is unable at this time to recall the exact details concerning this matter. This subsource made a list of telephone numbers which Burgess had both in his office and in his room in the Philby residence; in addition, there were notes believed to have been in the handwriting of Burgess in the Philby home. It was on this basis that our original informant made his statement as it is recorded in the report.

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. BELKNON<sup>D</sup>  
FROM : D. M. Ladd  
SUBJECT: DONALD DUART MCLEAN  
GUY FRANCIS BURGEES

DATE: December 28, 1951

[REDACTED] called me and referred to the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] in the above case dated August 15, 1951. He stated that on page one hundred one (101), there is an indication that Burgess had called ORDWAY 2914 on occasions and calls for Burgess had been received by this same number and that on page 103 in the same report it is noted that this phone is listed to [REDACTED]

In the light of the above, it is suggested that arrangements be made to recontact the original source of this information to determine what phone was being checked if possible in order to determine the accuracy of the statement that someone from the Ordway number had actually been calling Burgess.

BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Date: February 25, 1952

To:  
OS - X3

Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
2430 E Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C.

Attention: [REDACTED]

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: DONALD DUART MacLEAN  
GUY FRANCIS de MONCY BURGESS  
ESPIONAGE - R

In our memorandum of January 15, 1952, regarding this case we furnished you the results of an interview of [REDACTED] who had said that a friend of his, [REDACTED] who is employed by the British Embassy, reportedly had information concerning MacLean and Burgess. (R)



## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

American Embassy  
1, Grosvenor Square  
London, W. 1

7/7  
Date: March 10, 1952  
To: Director, FBI (████████)  
From: Legal Attaché (████████)  
Subject: DONALD DUANE MacLEAN, et al  
ESPIONAGE - R

There is attached, for the information of the Bureau, a copy of a news item which appeared in the London "Daily Mail" for March 6, 1952, stating that the Foreign Office has decided to cease further active inquiries regarding the above-captioned case. (████████)

## Hunt for Missing Diplomats Off

The hunt for Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean, the diplomats who disappeared last May, has been called off. Special Branch officers and Foreign Office agents have examined every conceivable clue in Britain and Europe without success, and the Foreign Office have decided to cease further active inquiries.

RE: DONALD DUART MacLEAN, et al  
ESPIONAGE - R

DAILY MAIL  
MARCH 6, 1952  
LONDON, ENGLAND

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. V. H. BELMONT [REDACTED]  
FROM : MR. C. E. HENNYCH [REDACTED]  
SUBJECT: DONALD DUART MACLEAN  
GUY BURGESS  
ESPIONAGE - R

DATE: October 29, 1952

As a matter of information, a review of the file on this case reflects that the tape recording of remarks made by Guy Burgess, which is probably the basis of Lord Elton's statements, erroneously attributed to MacLean and erroneously indicating that it referred to admission of Communist Party membership, was made at the home of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] has advised that the Legal Attaché of the British United Nations Delegation had contacted him to obtain the recording of Burgess' remarks and that Brynley had advised him a copy had been obtained by the FBI.

ACTION:

For your information, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

London Oct 29 (Reuters) - The British Foreign Office disputed a claim today that the F.B.I. holds a recording of a private speech containing Communist sympathies made in New York by a British diplomat.

But the Foreign Office did not deny a statement issued yesterday that the Diplomat - Donald Maclean who vanished apparently to east Europe 18 months ago - held Communist sympathies.

Maclean was named as a sympathiser by Foreign Undersecretary Lord Reading in the House of Lords yesterday.

He was replying to a charge from a member, Lord Elton, that the F.B.I. had the speech recording. Reading denied any knowledge of the speech.

A Foreign Office spokesman suggested today that there may be confusion over another speech which was recorded at a New York party by another missing diplomat, Guy Burgess, who vanished with Maclean.

This speech is believed to have been a burlesque of Premier Winston Churchill's gruff platform manner and contained no Communist sympathies.

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Tolson ✓  
 FROM : L. B. Nichols  
 SUBJECT:

DATE: October 28, 1952

S.I.R.-8

J/K

At 12:10 P.M. today, [REDACTED] in my office received a call from [REDACTED] of the London Daily Express. (S.I.R.-8) [REDACTED] advised that Lord Elton in a question and answer session in the House of Lords in London yesterday afternoon made the statement that Donald MacLean, who presumably disappeared behind the Iron Curtain with Guy Burgess in June of 1951, had been under investigation in the United States by the FBI. Lord Elton, according to [REDACTED] information, also said he understands the FBI has in its possession a recording in which Donald MacLean, speaking in the Washington apartment of an American friend, declares himself categorically to be a member of the Communist Party.

[REDACTED] went on to say he knows the FBI had an interest in MacLean who resided in the United States twice, the last time being 1946 to 1948 at which time he was head of the Chancery at the British Embassy. MacLean and Guy Burgess then returned to London and, of course, disappeared presumably behind the Iron Curtain in June, 1951. [REDACTED] stated that last summer he (S.I.R.-8) interviewed [REDACTED] at which time [REDACTED], a good friend of MacLean, said that FBI Agents had questioned [REDACTED] for some two hours concerning MacLean, his activities and disappearance.

[REDACTED] asked whether we could be of assistance to him and confirm or deny Lord Elton's statement.

As you recall, we did investigate MacLean [REDACTED] indicating he was a spy. The only recording we possess relates to remarks made by Burgess concerning the conversations he had with Winston Churchill. There is no reference to MacLean nor the fact he is a Communist in the recording. (S.I.R.-8)

ACTION TAKEN:

[REDACTED] advised [REDACTED] we could make no comment whatsoever.

cc - Mr. Ladd  
 cc - Mr. Belmont

REW:md

ADDENDUM - 12:30 P.M., 10/28/52 - REW:md

NOV 3 1952

[REDACTED] of the London Daily Mail called asking the same information and stating that Lord Elton had said "anyone who wished to hear the recording could do so." [REDACTED] told her we had no comment whatsoever.

HUV 1115-21

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✓ A.F.

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Tolson  
FROM : L. B. Nichols  
SUBJECT:

DATE: October 28, 1952

[REDACTED] of the New York Daily News called. He stated that reports were now coming from London that Lord Elton, had charged in Parliament today with reference to the Burgess and McLean Cases that McLean had made a broadcast in the United States wherein he disclosed he had been a member of the Communist Party and that the FBI had a recording of this broadcast.

I told [REDACTED] that the FBI had no comment to make. I inquired if we would have a comment at a later time. I told him that there was no such plans and that we had made no comment on this case in the very inception.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

December 28, 1951

RECORDED - 29

EX-24001

EX-3

HMTT

General Walter Bedell Smith  
Director, Central Intelligence Agency  
Administration Building  
Room 123  
2430 F Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C.

Dear General Smith:

In my memorandum of November 20, 1951, I furnished you certain information which had been developed in Spain by our Legal Office in Madrid regarding Harold Adrian Russell Nutby. This was pursuant to your request of November 7, 1951. You were informed that additional inquiries were being made.

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI [REDACTED]

DATE: May 21, 1952

FROM: SAC, WFO [REDACTED] 8810

SUSPECT:

DONALD DUART MACLEAN  
GUY FRANCIS deMONCY BURGESS  
ESPIONAGE - R

There are at the present time no outstanding leads for auxiliary offices or the office of origin in the above captioned matter. It is anticipated that additional information may be received from time to time in connection with this case which may require additional investigation but in the meantime this case is being placed in a closed status in the WFO.

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## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] DATE: October 21, 1952

FROM : SAC, WFO [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: DONALD DUART MACLEAN  
GUY FRANCIS de MONCY BURGESS  
ESPIONAGE - R

Inasmuch as all outstanding leads in the above captioned matter  
have been covered the case is being closed by the WFO.

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(MACLEAN)

LONDON--DONALD MACLEAN, ONE OF TWO BRITISH DIPLOMATS WHO DISAPPEARED IN MAY, 1951, ONCE MADE A RECORDED BROADCAST IN THE UNITED STATES OPENLY DECLARING HIMSELF A COMMUNIST. THE HOUSE OF LORDS WAS TOLD TODAY, MACLEAN OPENLY DECLARED HIMSELF A COMMUNIST AND A PROSELYTING COMMUNIST IN A RECORDED SPEECH WHICH HAS BEEN IN POSSESSION OF THE FBI IN THE U.S. FOR MANY YEARS. LORD ELTON SAID HE SAID IT WAS AMAZING THAT THE FOREIGN OFFICE DID NOT KNOW MACLEAN HAD BEEN REPEATEDLY DRUNK IN PUBLIC PLACES.

THE MARQUESS OF READING, UNDERSECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SAID IT WAS KNOWN MACLEAN HAS SUFFERED A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN AND HIS BEHAVIOR HAD BEEN IRREGULAR BUT HIS RECORD WAS SO GOOD HE WAS GIVEN ANOTHER CHANCE.

10/28--JE1246P

What about this?

H.F.

WASHINGTON CITY NEWS SERVICE

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October 31, 1952

RE: DONALD DUART MACLEAN;  
GUY FRANCIS DEMONCY BURGESS

We have been informed that the "London News Chronicle" of October 20, 1952, stated that Donald MacLean had been seen in Warsaw by a former non-British colleague who had known MacLean in Washington, D. C. It was reported to us the article had been attributed to an American source who said the information was credited by the United States State Department. We understand the State Department issued a statement saying they placed no credence in the news report.

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : A. H. Belmont

DATE: November 18, 1952

FROM : W. A. Brammer

SUBJECT: DONALD DURF MACLENNAN;  
GUY FRANCIS DE MOLY BRUGESS  
ESPIONAGE - R

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The present whereabouts of MacLean and Burgess are not known, although numerous press articles in both England and the United States have claimed the two men have been seen in various countries throughout Europe. No verification has developed concerning any of these press articles. (1A)

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. BELMONT  
FROM : D. M. Ladd  
SUBJECT: DONALD DUART MACLEAN,  
GUY FRANCIS DE MONCY(BURGESS)

DATE: December 11, 1952

A copy of this magazine was obtained from the Library of Congress, for review, and an item was found therein, indicating that MacLean and Burgess may now be in Prague. A copy of this article is attached.

Arrangements should be made for our Legal Attache in France to interview Jimmy Robinson Smith, the author of this item, for any additional information he may have regarding the location of these subjects.

Attachment

30

Date: December 16, 1952  
To: Legal Attaché  
Paris, France  
From: Director, FBI  
Subject: DONALD DUART MACLEAN;  
QUY FRANCIS DE MONCY BURGESS  
ESPIONAGE - R

Our attention has been directed to the Yale Alumni magazine for November, 1952, page 24, "Class Notes." An excerpt under the Class of '98, written by Julian A. Ripley, Secretary, Oyster Bay, Long Island, New York, is as follows:

"Jimmy Robinson Smith writes from Nice, France, quite a letter. He is running the English-American Library at 12 Rue de France. Besides this he has 'developed a new science, baptised The Science of Comparative Frequency, which will break the bank at any time.' He also says he discovered the missing British members of the Foreign Office who had breakfast with him and left for Rome but are now in Prague. Good for Jimmy."

[REDACTED] You will note that the above may represent an attempt to be humorous but it is desired that you contact Mr. Smith and ask him if he has any information relating to the past or present whereabouts of MacLean and/or Burgess. If he does have pertinent information, you should cable the data to the Bureau. This matter should be given your immediate attention.

**EXCERPT FROM "CLASS NOTES"**  
for Class of '98, written  
by Julian A. Ripley, Secretary,  
Oyster Bay, Long Island, N.Y.,  
appearing on Page 24 of  
Yale Alumni Magazine for Nov., 1952

"Jimmy Robinson Smith writes from Nice, France, quite a letter. He is running the English-American Library at 12 Rue de France. Besides this he has 'developed a new science, baptised The Science of Comparative Frequency, which will break the bank at any time.' He also says he discovered the missing British members of the Foreign Office who had breakfast with him and left for Rome but are now in Prague. Good for Jimmy."

December 11, 1952

RE: DONALD DUART MACLEAN  
OUY FRANCIS D'WORCY DUNNESS

In accordance with your oral request, a copy of the Yale Alumni Magazine for November, 1952, was obtained for perusal, and an item with regard to the above individuals was found therein. A copy of this item, which indicates that these individuals may now be in Prague, is attached for your information.

Enclosure

## Office Memorandum • UNITED GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Nichols

FROM : E. M. Jones

SUBJECT: ARTICLE IN THE REPORTER MAGAZINE  
BY CYRIL CONNOLLY CAFTIONED "THE  
CASE OF THE MISSING DIPLOMATS"

DATE: December 16, 1952

PURPOSE:

To summarize information re article by Cyril Vernon Connolly, a British writer, in The Reporter, issues of December 9 and 23, 1952, on "The Case of the Missing Diplomats" (Guy Burgess and Donald MacLean). Recommendation: none; for your information.

SYNOPSIS:

Cyril Vernon Connolly, British essayist and editor, wrote an article "The Case of the Missing Diplomats" referring to Donald MacLean and Guy Francis Deacon Burgess. The article appeared in two parts in The Sunday Times, London, issues of September 21 and 28, 1952, and, with but slight changes, in The Reporter, issues of December 9 and 23, 1952. Connolly is self-described acquaintance of both MacLean and Burgess, and his articles present accurate picture of lives of both men. Bureau files generally substantiate this. He theorizes on reasons for their flight from England.

[REDACTED]

DETAILS:

The Reporter, a fortnightly magazine, edited and published by Lax Ascoli, issues of December 9 and 23, 1952, carried an article by Cyril Connolly on the background and disappearance of Donald MacLean and Guy Burgess under the caption "The Case of the Missing

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Memorandum to Mr. Nichols

December 16, 1952

Diplomats." The issue of December 9 identified Connolly as a well-known British essayist and editor who was founder and editor of Horizon and author of several books.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

ARTICLE "THE CASE OF THE MISSING DIPLOMATS":

With but a small variance the articles as they appeared in The Reporter appeared in The Sunday Times of London, issues of September 21 and 23, 1952. They varied in that the newspaper articles carried a short introduction which was omitted from the magazine articles. This introduction by Connolly recited that he was acquainted with MacLean and Burgess and was one of the few who spoke with MacLean on his last day in England.

The articles described generally the personal history of the two men, their education, government employment, associations, and disappearance. Connolly concludes his article by examining three theories: (1) Their disappearance was non-political and purely personal; (2) They were perhaps Communist agents spirited out of England by their superiors; or (3) Burgess may have learned of an investigation, may have warned MacLean, and the two disappeared for personal security reasons. The article does not mention the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Memorandum to Mr. Nichols

December 16, 1952

LacLean was employed in the British Embassy in Washington, D. C., from May 1, 1944, until September 1, 1949. During this period he had access to Embassy documents dealing with the postwar policies to be followed in Europe. The Economic Section of the Embassy was under his supervision during this period.

The two men are homosexuals. Their present whereabouts are not known, and there has been no verification of numerous reports that they have been seen in various countries throughout Europe.

[redacted], who supervised the MacLean case, states that Connolly's articles are for the most part factual and do present an accurate picture of the lives of Burgess and LacLean from their college days at Cambridge to the date of their disappearance.

(2)  
12/18/52

December 18, 1952

Mr. Tolson:

With reference to [redacted] desire to do a story on Guy Burgess and Donald MacLean in view of the stories in the December 9th and 23rd issues of The Reporter magazine, the facts in The Reporter magazine stories are correct. I so advised [redacted]. I further told [redacted] that it would not be possible to be of any further assistance. I told him quite frankly that most of the investigation had been handled in England. We were working with the British authorities; that it was their case and we could not breach a confidence. He thoroughly understood.

He stated that he was going to have members of his staff check up on MacLean and Burgess in the United States: where they lived, how they lived, what their activities were, and secure as much information as possible.

I did remind [redacted] that The Reporter magazine articles originally appeared in the September 21st and September 28th issues of the Sunday Times in London; that The Reporter magazine articles were a condensation. He asked if we had the Sunday Times articles and I told him we did, and we would send him photostatic copies. He was very appreciative.

Respectfully,

A. B. Nichols

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Nichols  
FROM : M. A. Myers  
SUBJECT: ARTICLE IN  
U. S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT  
JANUARY 2, 1953  
CONCERNING GUY BURGESS AND  
DONALD MACLEAN

DATE: January 7, 1953

Donald Durant MacLean

For possible future information, it is suggested that the attached article concerning Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean, the missing British diplomats, be appropriately indexed and filed.

Attachment

# WHY BRITISH DIPLOMATS FLED

Burgess and Maclean Heard the Jig Was Up

Times-Herald

Wash. Post

Wash. News

Wash. Star

N.Y. Herald Tribune

N.Y. Mirror

U.S. News & World Report

Pages 21, 22, & 23

Date: January 2, 1953

**Where are Britain's missing diplomats? Behind the Iron Curtain working for Stalin—that's where the evidence points.**

The mystery is clearing after a year and a half. The Burgess-and-Maclean case keeps picking up Soviet angles.

Both were Communists. Both knew the West's secrets. Theory now is Moscow called them in before it was too late.

Reported from LONDON  
and WASHINGTON

The mystery of Britain's two missing diplomats gradually is clearing to reveal another link in the long chain of Communist espionage.

Here were two men who knew many inner secrets of the West. One had access to secrets of atomic-weapon development. The other was party to secret exchanges between the U.S. and Britain in the touchy field of Far East diplomacy.

Both, it now is established definitely, had been Communists. Both also had told friends, at different times, that they were Communist agents.

On the basis of conclusions now being drawn by security agents, these two diplomats served Russia as reporters able to get information from the innermost secret councils of the U.S. and Britain—councils where military, atomic and diplomatic policies were fixed.

**Alarm.** Spontaneous expression of shock and alarm that these two diplomats "knew everything" was attributed to Dean Acheson, U.S. Secretary of State, when he first heard they had decamped. A few hours later, in more studied tones, Acheson told questioning Senators this defection was "quite a serious matter."

The man whose flight was the more alarming was Donald Maclean, head of the American desk in the British Foreign Office at the time he disappeared. Maclean had served four years in the British Embassy in Washington where he was secretary of the Combined Policy Committee, ruling atomic secrets divided among Britain, Canada and the U.S. He had a pass into the Atomic Energy Commission, a pass good day or night. He had been counselor in the British Em-



MISSING: DONALD MACLEAN

Did Stalin's talent scouts sound the call?



MISSING: GUY BURGESS

—Keystone, Wide World

bassy in Cairo, a position that let him in on deepest secrets of policy toward the Communist-threatened Middle East.

Maclean disappeared on May 25, 1951. His midnight departure was kept secret until June 7, 1951, and was revealed officially only after a London newspaper learned of the flight.

Ever since that time, there has been a studied effort by both British and U.S. officials to make it appear that Donald Maclean was an unimportant person, really not "in the know" at all.

With Maclean went Guy Burgess. Burgess had been private secretary to Hector McNeil, No. 2 man in the whole British foreign service, and then was an official on the British Far Eastern desk. Finally he became second secretary in the British Embassy in Washington. Burgess had dealt with plans for settling with Japan, and he knew the tricky paths of dealing with Chinese Communism from the U.S. side as well as Britain's.

Together, these men possessed many of the Western world's basic secrets.

Careful propaganda has been used by the British Government, and tacitly by the American Government, to obscure this fact. Emphasis first was placed upon reports that the two diplomats had homosexual tendencies, and had a strong liking for alcohol—that they probably were off on a spree. When the binge theory became implausible after too-long absence,

the story shifted to hints that the two had been victims of foul play, that they probably had been killed and their bodies done away with.

Actually, security forces of two nations have knowledge that points to things far more serious than wild parties or murder. That knowledge is supplemented by facts that have been uncovered by newspapermen.

It all points in one direction: Britain's missing diplomats, on the basis of all information that is given real credence, took the underground Communist railway from London along a tortuous route to Rome, and from there to Prague behind the Iron Curtain.

Routes from Rome already were well greased. Communist agents there had successfully arranged the mysterious flight from Rome to Russia of Bruno Pontecorvo, a British atomic scientist.

As the story is pieced together, Burgess and Maclean took the underground route to Communist territory for two reasons, one growing out of the other. The first motivating drive was a warning, signaled from Communist agents, that security officials were about to spring a trap on the diplomats. The second activating force was assurance that the underground was ready and that there were jobs to do for the Kremlin.

Skilled deserters from the West are highly valued by Russia. She has useful

spots for propagandists and writers can make the Communist line more plausible, and for men who know the officials, the workings and the policy secrets of the United States Government.

In Britain's two diplomats, once they were in hand, Russia could have many of the qualities she wanted.

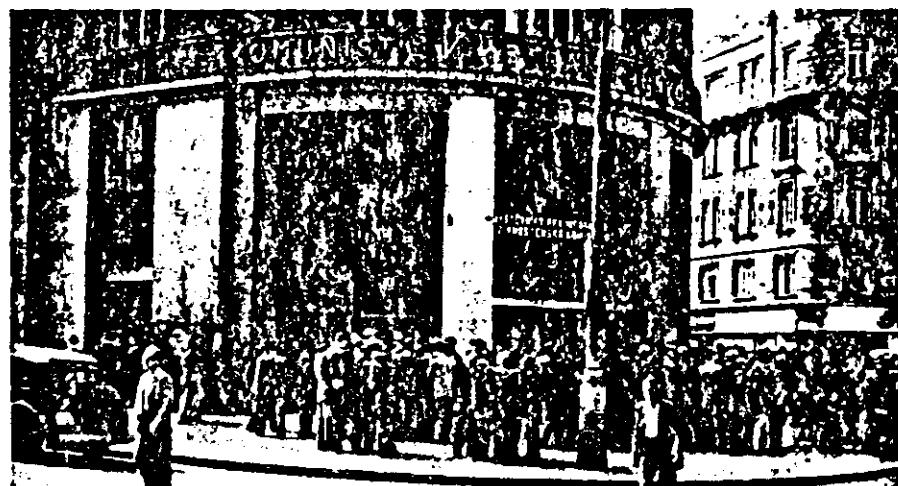
Both held jobs that gave access to important secrets. Both were well-educated, able writers. Both held knowledge

magazine News, published in English and aimed directly at the American and British public. Its pages now show knowledge of Western ways and U.S. idiom familiar only to people who grew up with the English language and have real knowledge of the United States.

After Burgess and Maclean disappeared, U.S. psychological-warfare experts in Korea noticed a change in Communist propaganda leaflets that are showered on American troops there. The



FROM THE HEART OF LONDON, TWO MEN LEFT A COLD TRAIL . . .



. . . DID IT LEAD TO COMMUNIST HEADQUARTERS IN PRAGUE?

of the West that is priceless when translated into "cold war" terms.

At the time of the mysterious flight of Burgess and Maclean, terms of the Japanese Treaty were being negotiated. Russia needed to know about it. A truce move in Korea was shaping up. Russia wanted to know whether truce bait would get a Western bite. Russia was hungry for news of progress on atomic weapons. Burgess and Maclean, between them, knew most of the answers.

This was a time, too, when the Kremlin was launching its slick propagandas

leaflets once were crude; now they are clever, with convincingly slanted appeals.

Trails of Communism left by the two men can be followed closely from the beginning. They had known each other more than 20 years, from a time when both were left-wingers at Cambridge University.

Burgess through these years preached Communism, derided Western culture, followed the Communist line that South Koreans had been aggressors, sent biased, anti-American dispatches from Wash-

ington, and held strong opinions against the postwar U.S. search for Communist agents.

In the middle 1930s, before Burgess joined the Foreign Office, a friend reported that he professed being a Communist agent and tried, without success, to recruit the friend as another agent.

Maclean talked as if he favored only the Communist factions fighting for the Spanish Loyalists. He wanted an end to war in Korea regardless of Western objectives, plainly stated a belief that Britain should give up such possessions as Hong Kong and Malaya, which are coveted by Communists, and held strong opinions favoring Alger Hiss. Maclean violently denounced Whittaker Chambers as two-faced, and even knocked down one of his friends for defending Chambers.

Just a few weeks before the flight, Maclean, too, told a friend he was a Communist agent.

**Warning.** Finally they were being caught up with. It was May 25, 1951, in London when the word came.

Burgess was arranging a week-end trip to France with another friend. He rented a car and packed some clothes. Then, at 5:30 in the afternoon, he received a long, mysterious telephone call.

Maclean celebrated his birthday that last day in London with a long lunch at excellent foreign restaurants in the Soho. While Burgess was getting the telephone call, Maclean caught a train to his country home in Kent, not far from where Winston Churchill lives.

In the night, Burgess arrived at Maclean's home, was introduced to Mrs. Maclean under an assumed name. Burgess and Maclean left in the rented car, after conferring privately.

From there, the trail leads to mystery. A look at the map on page 23 shows the route they now are believed to have taken across France to Rome after some devious dodging into the Channel Islands, and from Rome across the Iron Curtain.

**Underground agents** aided their flight. Messages to their families, written by someone else and filed in Paris and Rome by mysterious strangers, left a false scent.

Last summer, a strange four-figure deposit appeared in the accounts of Maclean's family in a Swiss bank, where deposits can be made by code number without revealing the depositor's name. The money was refused by the Macleans. It is now regarded by many as a Soviet effort to pay for Maclean's services.

The case still is very much alive. Investigations still are going on. Diplomats behind the Iron Curtain peer at faces, looking for Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean. They are sure the right place to look is behind the Curtain.

# Flight Behind the Curtain—Route of Two Renegades

## Maclean and Burgess Went:

- ① By rented car from London to Southampton
- ② By channel boat to St. Malo, France, back to Jersey, in Channel Islands; returned to St. Malo
- ③ By train to Marseilles, via Paris
- ④ By car to Nice
- ⑤ By plane to Rome
- ⑥ By "underground" to Prague

Elapsed time: 16 days—  
May 25 to June 10, 1951

## What Are They Doing Now?

Working in Lubianka, Moscow  
by son of important political  
figures?

Killed by Soviet secret police be-  
cause their Communist role had  
become known to the West?

... or,  
more  
likely...

Advising Kremlin with inside in-  
formation on penetrating U.S.  
British Government?

Editing Kremlin English lan-  
guage propaganda magazine  
NEWS?

Writing surrender leaflets aimed  
at U.S. troops in Korea?

January 13, 1953

Re: [REDACTED]

Drew Pearson, in his newspaper column, "The Washington Merry-Go-Round," entitled "Red Agent Enticed Allied Aides," which appeared in the "Washington Post" newspaper for Monday, January 12, 1953, reported that Italian and Allied authorities now believe a top Soviet agent in Western Europe was the Soviet mastermind behind the abduction of Bruno Pontecorvo, Guy Burgess, Donald Maclean, Noel Field, and other members of the Field family. This Soviet agent is identified as "H. Karl," who reportedly has many assumed names, travels alternately on four different passports, speaks six languages, and is the most accomplished spy in Europe today. According to the article, Karl was born in Austria, and began espionage work with the Nazis. He reportedly worked with Admiral Canaris' Nazi spy group in the Middle East and also planted the Albanian valet on the British Ambassador in Istanbul, thereby permitting Hitler to obtain the British secret code and size of the Allies' top war secrets.

Karl reportedly switched his allegiance to Russia in early 1944, and has been one of Russia's top agents ever since.

According to the article, Karl was in Prague when Noel Field was kidnapped and was believed to have been instrumental in enticing other members of the Field family behind the Iron Curtain. The article states that Allied authorities give Karl almost sole credit for "sneaking" British scientist Bruno Pontecorvo behind the Iron Curtain. Allied authorities reportedly believe that Karl had contacts with Pontecorvo in England and arranged to meet Pontecorvo during the scientist's vacation at Milan, Italy. The article states that Burgess and Maclean are believed to have been lured to a point near Udine, Italy, through a combination of blackmail and bribery. From Udine they are reported to have been flown in a private plane without customs clearances.

to Red territory in Austria. Karl is described as follows:

Age	50
Height	5'9"
Weight	170 pounds
Hair	Fair, balding, gray at temples
Complexion	Yellowish
Eyes	Blue-grey with tendency to squint
Peculiarities	Slit-line mouth, thin lips, rounding chin, uses pince-nez or heavy tortoise-shell glasses to vary his appearance
Scars and Marks	Drooping underlip from a scar which is partially obscured by a full blonde-gray mustache.

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (RM)

DATE: 2-16-53

J.W. FROM : SAC, CINCINNATI [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: GUY FRANCIS;  
MONCY BURGESS  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

The following information is submitted for any action deemed appropriate.

On January 21, 1953, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised he had been reading an article in "The Reporter" magazine, dated December 23, 1952, which article was captioned "The Case of the Missing Diplomats", Page 28. He said that he and his wife had seen the subjects on a Tuesday, the exact date unknown, but recalls that it was before July of 1951. [REDACTED] stated that the subjects were English and driving a sports car through LaGuerche-De-Bretagne, France. [REDACTED] stated that he felt foolish in coming to the FBI Office to give such a small amount of information, but offered this information for what value it may be worth. He said that the sight of any Englishmen in this particular part of France was not commonplace and that, therefore, he sincerely believes that these two men were the subjects. He said that he has no further information on the subjects.

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SAC, Cincinnati

March 9, 1953

Director, FBI [REDACTED]

*REU*  
DONALD DUART MacLEAN;  
GUY FRANCIS de MONCY BURGESS;  
ESPIONAGE - R

Reference is made to the memorandum from  
the Cincinnati Office dated February 16, 1953. While  
the Bureau considers it unlikely that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] actually saw Mac Lean and Burgess in France, it is  
necessary that you obtain additional details from them.  
This information is needed so the Bureau can make appropriate  
dissemination abroad. You should reinterview [REDACTED].  
[REDACTED], determine exactly where it was they reportedly  
saw Mac Lean and Burgess, did they merely see them driving  
an automobile, or did they have an opportunity to closely  
observe them. Attempt to fix the date of the occasion  
more accurately and obtain a description of the two  
individuals they saw, and a description of the automobile.  
A photograph of Mac Lean and a photograph of Burgess are  
enclosed which should be exhibited to [REDACTED].

The results of your interview with these two  
individuals should be submitted to the Bureau in report  
form.

C, MA  
C, 5:

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (RM)

FROM : SAC, CINCINNATI [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: GUY FRANCIS;  
MONCY BURGESS  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

DATE: 2-16-53

The following information is submitted for any action deemed appropriate.

On January 21, 1953, [REDACTED] advised he had been reading an article in "The Reporter" magazine, dated December 2, 1952, which article was captioned "The Case of the Missing Diplomats," Page 28. He said that he and his wife had seen the subjects on a Tuesday, the exact date unknown, but recalls that it was before July of 1951. [REDACTED] stated that the subjects were English and driving a sports car through LaGuerche-De-Bretagne, France. [REDACTED] stated that he felt foolish in coming to the FBI to give such a small amount of information, but offered this information for what value it may be worth. He said that the sight of any Englishmen in this particular part of France was not commonplace and that, therefore, he sincerely believes that these two men were the subjects. He said that he has no further information on the subjects.

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT CINCINNATI, OHIO

(1)

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
CINCINNATI, OHIO	7-29-53	7-14-53	<span style="font-family: cursive;">██████████</span> VD
TITLE		CHARACTER OF CASE	
DONALD DUART MacLEAN; GUY FRANCIS de MONCY BURGESS		ESPIONAGE - R	

Negative - No disse - necessary

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

██████████ advised he read article entitled "The Case of the Missing Diplomats" in December 2, 1952, issue of the magazine "The Reporter." Thought subjects might possibly be identical with two individuals he saw driving small sports car through La Guerche-De-Bretagne, France, prior to July 14, 1951. █████ was standing about 50 yards from car at time individuals stopped to ask directions from unknown individual in market place. █████ unable to describe individuals and make and color of car not known to him now. Was unable to identify photographs of subjects as being individuals in question.

██████████, was not with her husband at time of incident and had no information concerning individuals or car. She placed date of incident as being during late May or early June, 1951.

- C -

DETAILS: AT DAYTON, OHIO

██████████ advised on January 21, 1953, that he had read an article in "The Reporter" magazine dated December 2, 1952, entitled "The Case of the Missing Diplomats," and thought that these subjects might possibly be identical with two individuals whom he had seen in La Guerche-De-Bretagne, France, during the summer of 1951.

When reinterviewed on July 14, 1953, █████ furnished the following information:

82-1013

██████████

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CIN. [REDACTED]

On one occasion, some time prior to July 14, 1951, while standing in the market place at La Guerche-De-Bretagne, France, he noticed a car come down the road leading from Rennes, France, and turn into this market place. The car was a small sports car, make unknown, and color not remembered. The car contained two young men, whom he could not describe, and stopped for a few seconds in the market place to ask directions of an unknown individual who was working at one of the stalls in the market place. They then drove on in the direction of Mantes, France.

[REDACTED] stated that he was standing about fifty yards from this car at the time it stopped, did not talk to the individuals, did not talk to the individual from whom they asked directions and was not close enough to the car to identify the individuals therein if he saw them again. The individuals at the time made no impression on him and he did not notice the license plate on the car. He stated that the only reason he noticed the car at all was because it was not common for this type car to go through La Guerche-De-Bretagne, France, as there are no tourist attractions in this city.

He stated that after reading the above-mentioned article in "The Reporter," he felt that these two individuals might have been the subjects and felt the matter should be referred to the FBI for what it was worth.

Photographs of the subjects were displayed to [REDACTED] at which time he advised that he did not recognize the subjects as being the individuals in the car in question. He stated that from the distance where he was standing at the time he noticed the car, he would not have been able to identify the individuals had they been the subjects.

[REDACTED], advised that she was not with her husband at the time he saw the car and individuals in question, and, therefore, could not furnish any information about them. She stated that as she recalls, the time of this incident must have been during the latter part of May or early

CIN. [REDACTED]

part of June, 1951. She and her husband went to Paris for the July 14th celebration and it was a month or more prior to that date. She placed the day of the week as Tuesday as that is the market day in La Guerche-De-Bretagne, France.

- C -

- 3 -

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[REDACTED] September 16, 1953

(REDACTED) RE: DONALD DUART MAC LEAN

You will have noted the news accounts that Mrs. Melinda MacLean, the wife of Donald MacLean, is reported to have disappeared on Tuesday, September 15, 1953, from the Swiss village of Mrs. Melinda G. Dunbar, her mother. The news accounts state Mrs. MacLean was accompanied by her three children. It is further reported that Mrs. Dunbar was in contact with the Swiss police, and that steps were being taken by the authorities to locate Mrs. MacLean. (REDACTED)

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. A. H. BELMONT *W.H.B.*DATE:  
September 18, 1953FROM : MR. V. P. *V.P.*SUBJECT: DONALD DUART MacLEAN, et al  
ESPIONAGE - R

Reference is made to newspaper reports reflecting  
that Mrs. Melinda MacLean, American-born wife of the captioned  
subject, had disappeared from Switzerland with her children. (u)

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The Attorney General

September 23, 1953

Director, FBI

DONALD DUART MACLEAN  
GUY FRANCIS de MONCY VERGENCE  
ESPIONAGE - E  
(FBI File [REDACTED])

As you know, the above-mentioned individuals are the two British diplomats who disappeared in France on May 25, 1951. Their present whereabouts is not definitely known.

SAC, Washington Field (██████)

September 23, 1963

[REDACTED]  
Director, FBI (██████████)

J-123  
DONALD DULIT MAC LEAN,  
GUY FRANCIS de MONCY BURGESS  
ESPIONAGE - R

You will have noted the press accounts concerning  
the disappearance of Melinda MacLean and her three children.  
As you know, Melinda MacLean is the wife of Donald MacLean,  
the missing British diplomat.

The following has been set forth in order to apprise you of information received concerning this matter. In the absence of the receipt of leads which have to be covered in the United States, it will not be necessary for you to reopen this investigation.

AIR - TEL  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

-----  
NEW YORK, 9/21/53

Transmit the following Teletype message to: ✓ BUREAU, 7-1

DONALD DUART MAC LEAN, ESPIONAGE-R. [REDACTED]

✓ 6

[REDACTED] STATED THAT [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] IS THE [REDACTED] OF MELINDA MAC LEAN, WHO HAS BEEN REPORTED MISSING IN SWITZERLAND. MELINDA MAC LEAN IS THE WIFE OF DONALD MAC LEAN, A BRITISH DIPLOMAT WHO HAS BEEN MISSING SINCE MAY 1951. SUBMITTED FOR INFORMATION OF THE BUREAU.

DONALD DUART MACLEAN, ET AL, ESPIONAGE -R. ACCOUNT IN [REDACTED] EXPRESS TODAY BY RENE MACCOLL RE INQUIRY IN MAJORCA, SPAIN. REFLECTS MRS. MACLEAN, CHILDREN AND MRS. DUNBAR THERE IN [REDACTED] AUGUST AND EARLY SEPTEMBER 1953, STAYING AT VILLA OF WIDOWER DOUGLAS MACKILLOP, DESCRIBED AS IN LATE THIRTIES AND FROM SAN FRANCISCO. STATES IN WORLD WAR TWO, HE WAS EXPERT IN STUDYING PHOTOGRAPH - RECONNAISSANCE PICTURES TAKEN BY U.S. AIR FORCE AND LATER QUOTE CHIEF SECURITY OFFICER FOR MARSHALL PLAN PEOPLE IN PARIS. UNQUOTE.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

XEROX Copy

SECTION 9

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Office Mem a um • UNITED ST GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. A. H. BELMONT

DATE: February 2, 1954

FROM : MR. V. P. KEAY

SUBJECT: DONALD D. MacLEAN  
ESPIONAGE - R

✓

In the report of confidential source [REDACTED] it mentions the fact that the activities of Burgess and MacLean are by no means fully known, but it has been ascertained that they were blackmailed on homosexual grounds by Soviet agents.

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The Attorney General

January 13, 1954

Director, FBI

DONALD DUANE MACLEAN,  
GUY FRANCES DE MONCY BURGESE  
ESPIONAGE - R

In my memorandum to you of January 5, 1954, I pointed out the facts concerning the access MacLean had had at the Atomic Energy Headquarters in Washington. I stated that we did not know of any connection Burgess had had with matters dealing with atomic energy and during the period he was stationed in the United States, from August, 1950, to May, 1951, his responsibilities were in the Far Eastern Affairs Department of the British Embassy. [REDACTED] has been contacted and states, insofar as he knows, Burgess did not have any access to the Atomic Energy Headquarters. There is no record of Burgess ever having been in the Atomic Energy building in Washington, D. C.

RJL:fjm

NOTE: Supervisor [REDACTED] contacted [REDACTED] on January 7, 1954, concerning this matter.

URGENT

DONALD DUARTE MACLEAN ET AL, ESPIONAGE - R. EVENING NEWS-  
PAPERS REPORT LETTER RECEIVED LAST EVENING BY BURGESS'  
MOTHER, MRS. J. R. BASSETT, IN HIS HAND WRITING; POSTMARKED  
QUOTE LONDON S. E. 1 UNQUOTE, AND DATED QUOTE NOVEMBER  
UNQUOTE. STATES HE IS IN GOOD HEALTH AND ASKS MOTHER TO  
SEND HIS LOVE TO TWO FRIENDS, NOT NAMING THEM BUT SAYING  
QUOTE YOU KNOW UNQUOTE. NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AVAIL-  
ABLE HERE REGARDING THIS MATTER AS YET.

[REDACTED]

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LONDON (AP)-A CHRISTMAS LETTER IN THE HANDWRITING OF GUY BURGESS, BRITISH DIPLOMAT WHO VANISHED 2 1/2 YEARS AGO, WAS DELIVERED AT HIS MOTHER'S HOME TODAY. SHE SAID IT WAS THE FIRST REAL EVIDENCE THAT HER SON IS STILL ALIVE.

BURGESS AND HIS FOREIGN OFFICE COLLEAGUE, DONALD MACLEAN, AN AMERICAN AFFAIRS EXPERT, DISAPPEARED ON MAY 25, 1951. THERE HAS BEEN WIDE SPECULATION THAT THEY FLED TO THE EAST TO HELP THE COMMUNIST WORLD IN ITS COLD WAR AGAINST THE WEST.

BURGESS' MOTHER, MRS. EVELYN BURGESS BASSETT, SPEAKING FROM HER APARTMENT NEAR PICCADILLY CIRCUS, SAID SHE WAS "ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN" HER SON WROTE THE LETTER SIGNED IN HIS NAME.

"IT IS A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS PRESENT," SHE SAID. "IT IS THE FIRST REAL SIGN WE HAVE HAD THAT HE IS STILL ALIVE." A FRIEND OF MRS. BASSETT TOLD REPORTERS IT WAS "QUITE A HAPPY LETTER" CONTAINING ORDINARY CHRISTMAS GREETINGS.

"THERE WAS NO INDICATION IN IT OF WHERE GUY MAY BE," THE FRIEND ADDED.

CONTENTS OF THE LETTER WERE NOT PUBLISHED. THE PENNED DATE OF THE MESSAGE WAS SIMPLY "NOVEMBER." IT WAS POSTMARKED MONDAY NIGHT, HOWEVER, AND IN THE DOCKYARD AREA OF LONDON. THE LAPSE OF TIME BETWEEN THE WRITING AND THE MAILING OF THE LETTER SUGGESTED THE POSSIBILITY THAT BURGESS SENT IT TO A FRIEND HERE TO BE REPOSTED.

THE FACT THAT IT WAS POSTED IN A DOCKYARD AREA ALSO SUGGESTED A POSSIBILITY THAT BURGESS, IF ACTUALLY IN AN IRON CURTAIN COUNTRY, SENT THE LETTER TO ENGLAND IN THE CARE OF A SEAMAN, WHO DROPPED IT IN A LOCAL MAILBOX.

WE1116AES 12/23

ENCLOSURE

62

The Attorney General

January 5, 1954

Director, FBI

RONALD DUART MACLEAN;  
CLY FRANCIS DE MUNY BURGESS  
MISSIONAGE - R

[REDACTED]

had commented that Burgess and MacLean had the run of the building of the Atomic Energy Commission when they were here. Our files reflect MacLean officially represented the British Embassy on matters dealing with political aspects of atomic energy in the period from January, 1947, to August, 1948. MacLean reportedly had no access to classified scientific information, but he did have full knowledge of the discussions which took place during that period concerning cooperation between the United States, Canada and England. He had access to communications on such matter which passed between Washington, D.C., and London, England. During the same period, he had knowledge of the transactions of the Central Development Agency and of arrangements for securing raw material and estimates of future production which were made at that time.

During the investigation of MacLean, it was determined that a non-court visitor's badge was issued to MacLean on November 5, 1947, by [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] has previously informed us that this permitted MacLean to go anywhere in the Atomic Energy headquarters and [REDACTED] commented at the time that Army and Navy officials were required to have escorts in going through the building.

MAILED II

JAN 5 1954

COAM-FBI

Our files do not reflect that Burgess had any connection with matters dealing with atomic energy and during the period he was stationed in the United States, from August, 1950, to May, 1951, his responsibilities were in the Far Eastern Affairs Department of the British Embassy.

RECORDED-96

JAN 11 1954

RJL:jdb

1/11/54

1/11/54  
1/11/54

NOTARIZED SIGN & IDENT INFO NOT RECEIVED

In my previous letter dated , you were requested to submit your notarized signature and identifying data. To date, they have not been received.

A notarized signature is requested for verification of identity and to insure that documents are released only to an individual having a right of access to the information. Identifying data is requested solely for the purpose of an accurate search of our records.

Please be advised that processing of your request will not commence until the requisite verification and identifying data are received.

Sincerely yours,

Clarence M. Kelley  
Director

Rev. 4-8-77

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## Today in Washington

# Vanishing of Mrs. Maclean Puts British Agents on Spot

By DAVID LAWRENCE

WASHINGTON, Sept. 17.—Donald MacLean—a British official known among his friends as a Communist—in some strange way eluded the British security services in May, 1951 and disappeared behind the Iron Curtain bearing confidential information he had been accumulating from his intimate contacts with the governments of the United States and Great Britain.

Now his American-born wife has disappeared under circumstances equally mysterious, and the world is wondering whether the British Security Service fell down again or whether perhaps it now will be in the position to confound its critics by exposing the whole story and revealing that perhaps it has known all along what was going on.

The latter theory is one that naturally arises wishfully among those familiar with intelligence work. For it would be incredible if the British Security Service, knowing how important it was to obtain every scrap of information about the whereabouts of MacLean and his associate, Guy Burgess, would fail to shadow the family in Switzerland and keep in touch with everyone who might seek to talk with the wife of the missing diplomat.

### May Take Days

Certainly if the intelligence agents have been and are still on the job, it may be days before they will discover the place where Messrs. MacLean and Burgess have been hiding. There would certainly have been no point in intercepting Mrs. MacLean. It would be shrewd, rather, to maintain uninterrupted surveillance until it could be determined exactly where she was headed.

Times-Herald

Wash. Post

Wash. News

Wash. Star

N.Y. Herald Tribune

N.Y. Mirror

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

EXPOSURE

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Why is the whole episode important? It's because Donald MacLean served as a secretary of the British Embassy in Washington along with another secretary, Guy Burgess, and the main job of MacLean was to keep in touch with atomic-energy developments here. He was secretary of a committee of the allies, including the British government, and was therefore accepted and trusted as a thoroughly reliable person.

When MacLean disappeared and one of the reporters here told former Secretary of State Acheson about it, the latter is reported to have exclaimed: "My God, he knew everything!"

MacLean not only knew about atomic-energy matters when he was in America, but at the time of his disappearance he had been given charge of the so-called "American desk" in the British Foreign Office in London. This is the desk over which flows daily all the confidential messages from diplomatic representatives of Great Britain in the United States. Naturally at that time there were very secret exchanges between our State Department and Great Britain relative to plans for ending the Korean war. There were also objections by the British to the continuance of the conflict if it involved extension of hostilities into Manchuria.

Whatever the information was that the British government had from its close friend and ally, the United States, Donald MacLean was in a position to carry to the Communists. There are various rumors that the Federal Bureau of Investigation here originally had a tip on MacLean's activities and had so notified the British government and that the British security authorities were about to pounce on MacLean and Burgess just as they made their getaway.

Regarded As Brilliant

Both MacLean and Burgess were college men and known as brilliant "intellectuals" in literary circles. Their sympathies for Communist doctrine were not difficult to determine, but the British Foreign Office, which was pooh-poohing American concern over the Alger Hiss case and the infiltration of other Communists in the State Department, didn't seem to be vigilant in doing a check-up job in the matter of loyalty—any more than it had been when "clearing" Klaus Fuchs for admission to the American atomic-energy project.

Whether Mrs. MacLean has gone to see her husband voluntarily or involuntarily, the fact remains that the oft-distributed story from some London sources that MacLean and Burgess had been somehow "liquidated" doesn't seem plausible now any more than the first unofficial intimation that they had just gone on a "holiday binge."

It will be important for the British Security Service to re-establish faith in its efficiency by getting all the facts, and maybe that's what they have been doing these last few days and some day will reveal. American officials are much concerned because again the subject of an exchange of atomic secrets with Britain is up for consideration, and Congress is not likely to amend existing law to provide freer interchange if British security methods are believed to be lax.

The Attorney General

January 5, 1954

Director, FBI

DONALD DUART MACLEAN;  
GUY FRANCIS DE VINCY BURGESS  
MACHAGE - R

[REDACTED]

had commented that Burgess and MacLean had the run of the building of the Atomic Energy Commission when they were here. Our files reflect MacLean officially represented the British Embassy on matters dealing with political aspects of atomic energy in the period from January, 1947, to August, 1948. MacLean reportedly had no access to classified scientific information, but he did have full knowledge of the discussions which took place during that period concerning cooperation between the United States, Canada and England. He had access to communications on such matters which passed between Washington, D.C., and London, England. During the same period, he had knowledge of the transactions of the Central Petroleum Agency and of arrangements for securing raw materials and estimates of future production which were made at that time.

During the investigation of MacLean, it was determined that a non-court visitor's badge was issued to MacLean on November 3, 1947, by [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] his previous[ly] informed us that this permitted MacLean to go anywhere in the Atomic Energy headquarters and [REDACTED] went to the same time Army and Navy officials were required to have escorts in going through the building.

MAILED II  
JAN 5 1954

COAM-FBI

Our files do not reflect that Burgess had any connection with matters dealing with atomic energy and during the period he was stationed in the United States, from August, 1950, to May, 1951, his responsibilities were in the Far Eastern Affairs Department of the British Embassy.

RECORDED-96

JAN 11 1954

RJL:jdb

1/11/54

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LONDON (AP)-A CHRISTMAS LETTER IN THE HANDWRITING OF GUY BURGESS, BRITISH DIPLOMAT WHO VANISHED 2 1/2 YEARS AGO, WAS DELIVERED AT HIS MOTHER'S HOME TODAY. SHE SAID IT WAS THE FIRST REAL EVIDENCE THAT HER SON IS STILL ALIVE.

BURGESS AND HIS FOREIGN OFFICE COLLEAGUE, DONALD MACLEAN, AN AMERICAN AFFAIRS EXPERT, DISAPPEARED ON MAY 25, 1951. THERE HAS BEEN WIDE SPECULATION THAT THEY FLED TO THE EAST TO HELP THE COMMUNIST WORLD IN ITS COLD WAR AGAINST THE WEST.

BURGESS' MOTHER, MRS. EVELYN BURGESS BASSETT, SPEAKING FROM HER APARTMENT NEAR PICCADILLY CIRCUS, SAID SHE WAS "ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN" HER SON WROTE THE LETTER SIGNED IN HIS NAME.

"IT IS A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS PRESENT," SHE SAID. "IT IS THE FIRST REAL SIGN WE HAVE HAD THAT HE IS STILL ALIVE."

A FRIEND OF MRS. BASSETT TOLD REPORTERS IT WAS "QUITE A HAPPY LETTER" CONTAINING ORDINARY CHRISTMAS GREETINGS.

"THERE WAS NO INDICATION IN IT OF WHERE GUY MAY BE," THE FRIEND ADDED.

CONTENTS OF THE LETTER WERE NOT PUBLISHED.

THE PENNED DATE OF THE MESSAGE WAS SIMPLY "NOVEMBER." IT WAS POSTMARKED MONDAY NIGHT, HOWEVER, AND IN THE DOCKYARD AREA OF LONDON. THE LAPSE OF TIME BETWEEN THE WRITING AND THE MAILING OF THE LETTER SUGGESTED THE POSSIBILITY THAT BURGESS SENT IT TO A FRIEND HERE TO BE REPOSTED.

THE FACT THAT IT WAS POSTED IN A DOCKYARD AREA ALSO SUGGESTED A POSSIBILITY THAT BURGESS, IF ACTUALLY IN AN IRON CURTAIN COUNTRY, SENT THE LETTER TO ENGLAND IN THE CARE OF A SEAMAN, WHO DROPPED IT IN A LOCAL MAILBOX.

WE1116AES 12/23

ENCLOSURE

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URGENT

DONALD DUARTE MACLEAN ET AL, ESPIONAGE - R. EVENING NEWS-PAPERS REPORT LETTER RECEIVED LAST EVENING BY BURGESS' MOTHER, MRST J. R. BASSETT, IN HIS HAND WRITING; POSTMARKED QUOTE LONDON S. E. 1 UNQUOTE, AND DATED QUOTE NOVEMBER UNQUOTE. STATES HE IS IN GOOD HEALTH AND ASKS MOTHER TO SEND HIS LOVE TO TWO FRIENDS, NOT NAMING THEM BUT SAYING QUOTE YOU KNOW UNQUOTE. NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE HERE REGARDING THIS MATTER AS YET.

[REDACTED]

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The Attorney General

January 12, 1954

Director, FBI

DONALD DUANE MACLEAN;  
GUY FRANCES DE MOLY BURGESS  
ESPIONAGE - R

In my memorandum to you of January 5, 1954, I pointed out the facts concerning the access MacLean had had at the Atomic Energy Headquarters in Washington. I stated that we did not know of any connection Burgess had had with matters dealing with atomic energy and during the period he was stationed in the United States, from August, 1950, to May, 1951, his responsibilities were in the Far Eastern Affairs Department of the British Embassy. [REDACTED] has been contacted and states, insofar as he knows, Burgess did not have any access to the Atomic Energy Headquarters. There is no record of Burgess ever having been in the Atomic Energy building in Washington, D. C.

RJL:fjm  
NOTE: Supervisor [REDACTED] contacted [REDACTED] on January 7, 1954, concerning this matter.

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## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. A. H. BELMONT

DATE: February 2, 1954

FROM : MR. V. P. KEAY

SUBJECT: DONALD D. MacLEAN  
ESPIONAGE - R

V

In the report of confidential source [REDACTED] it mentions the fact that the activities of Burgess and MacLean are by no means fully known, but it has been ascertained that they were blackmailed on homosexual grounds by Soviet agents.

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3. It is a fact that Burgess and Maclean were also homosexuals; [REDACTED]

4. An enclosed clipping refers to a Czech refugee, Karel Strauss, who has had his British nationality canceled on the ground that he had betrayed to the Czech Communist authorities that Clementis intended to flee to the west. Strauss accused Burgess and Maclean of having tipped off the Czechs. The activities of Burgess and Maclean are by no means fully known, but it has been ascertained that they were blackmailed on homosexual grounds by Soviet agents.

Encl. Newspaper clipping "The Strange Case of Charles Strauss," one page.

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# THE STRANGE CASE OF CHARLES STRAUSS

The silly sensation in the Press about Burgess sending Christmas greetings to his mother raises once more the strange case of Charles Strauss who was deported from France at the time of the disappearance of the two diplomats on suspicion of having met them in Paris on their way behind the Iron Curtain.

Strauss had played an important part in Czechoslovak politics right up to 1939 as a right-wing supporter of Hacha, but fled the country at the time of the German occupation in March of that year. He then worked in London for the Czech exile Government and was closely associated with the Foreign Office.

## BETRAYAL OF CLEMENTIS

He was one of those responsible for contacting Clementis, the Czech Foreign Secretary, on behalf of the West, and, when this contact was betrayed to the Communists, so that Clementis was hanged, Strauss was blamed by the authorities who deprived him of the British citizenship he had in the meantime acquired.

While these proceedings were pending, he happened to be in Paris at the time of the disappearance of Burgess and Maclean. Despite the fact that this disclosed a leak in the Foreign Office through which knowledge of Clementis' being in touch with the West might easily have been disclosed, the authorities guided the French police that Strauss had been in touch with them so that they deported him back to his country.

Since that time Strauss has been living in this country in a state of alien since the present Czech Government will certainly not give him a passport. It is significant that further measures have been taken against him by the Conservative Government, from which it may be deduced that he was made a scapegoat for the shocking condition of security in the Foreign Office under the Labour Government.

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## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. J. H. BELMONTE

February 8, 1954

DATE:

FROM : MR. W. A. BRANIGAN

**SUBJECT:** DONALD DUART MacLEAY;  
GUY FRANCIS DeMORCE-BURGESS  
ESPIONAGE - R  
(BuFile [REDACTED])

It is believed we should make an effort to determine through handwriting comparison if the card is actually in Burgess' handwriting. It is to be noted that we do have in our files the handwriting of Guy Burgess in Lab file [REDACTED] ( [REDACTED]).

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# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Q. Tamm [REDACTED]  
FROM : A. K. Bowles  
SUBJECT: DONALD DUART MacLEAN;  
GUY FRANCIS DeMONCY BURGESS  
ESPIONAGE - R

DATE: February 12, 1954

Reference is made to the memorandum from Mr. Branigan to Mr. Belmont dated February 8, 1954, with which the following specimens were transmitted for examination in the Laboratory:

[REDACTED]

ALSO SUBMITTED: Three clippings from Punch Magazine, attached to a sheet of white paper.

It is concluded that the typewriting appearing on the envelope designated as Q12 was made on a machine equipped with Remington #3 elite type spaced twelve letters to the inch.

It has not been possible to reach a definite conclusion as to whether the "GUY BURGESS" signature appearing on the Christmas card designated as Q13 was written by GUY BURGESS inasmuch as the Laboratory does not have available a sufficient number of genuine signatures of GUY BURGESS to determine what variations might be expected in his signature. Those known signatures of GUY BURGESS which are available in the Laboratory are informally written and do not constitute sufficient material for adequate comparison with the questioned signature.

The evidence submitted is attached hereto. Photographs have been retained in the Laboratory file.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that this memorandum and attachments be forwarded to the Domestic Intelligence Division for the attention of [REDACTED] for such further action as may be deemed necessary.

75

SAC, New York [REDACTED]

February 17, 1954

Director, FBI [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

DONALD DUART MacLEAN;  
GUY FRANCIS de MUNCY DEAGLES  
ESPIONAGE - R

A comparison was made of the handwriting of Burgess and the handwriting appearing on the card by the FBI Laboratory, and no conclusion could be reached as to whether the signature was genuine because there were not available for comparison a sufficient number of signatures of Burgess from which to determine what variations might be expected in his signature.

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February 18, 1954

RE: DONALD DIAUT MacLEAN;  
GUY FRANCIS de MOLLY BURGESS

A comparison was made of the handwriting of Burgess and the handwriting appearing on the card, and no conclusion could be reached as to whether the signature was genuine because we did not have for comparison purposes a sufficient number of signatures of Burgess to determine what variations might be expected in his signature. We would like to have you furnish us additional signatures of Burgess to be used for comparison purposes.

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THE FOREIGN SERVICE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
American Embassy  
Paris, France

Date: February 16, 1954

To: Director, FBI [REDACTED]

From: Agent, FBI [REDACTED]

Subject: DONALD EDWARD FREDERICK  
GUY FRANCOIS DE FOUDY BURGESS  
EMPLOYEE - V

Revised: 12/3/53.

The date of birth of the subject was furnished to [REDACTED] on 1/17/54.

No further information has been received concerning the recent appearance of Guy Burgess and, inasmuch as the Bureau has not requested any investigation concerning this matter in France, this case is now considered RSC, UACB.

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## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Tamm

DATE: March 19, 1954

FROM : A. K. Bowles

SUBJECT: DONALD DUART MacLEAN  
GUY FRANCIS DeMONCY BURGESS  
ESPIONAGE - R

[REDACTED]

KcS Four Photostats bearing the known signatures of GUY BURGESS.

A comparison of the additional known signatures of GUY BURGESS appearing on the specimen designated as Kc6 with the GUY BURGESS signature on the Christmas card previously submitted to the Laboratory and designated as Q13 has not resulted in a definite conclusion due to the fact that characteristics occur in the questioned signature which cannot be accounted for on the basis of the known signatures of GUY BURGESS available to the Laboratory.

Specimen Kc6 is retained in the Laboratory file.

As requested by [REDACTED] three photographic copies of the Christmas card designated as Q13 and the envelope in which the Christmas card was mailed which is designated as Q12 are attached hereto.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that this memorandum with attachments be furnished to the Espionage Section of the Domestic Intelligence Division for the attention of [REDACTED]

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March 25, 1954

RE: DONALD EARL MC LEAN,  
GUY FRANCIS & MONEY BURGESS

For your information a handwriting comparison made by us has not reached a definite conclusion as to whether Burgess prepared the signature on the card in view of the fact that there are characteristics in the questioned signature which could not be accounted for on the basis of the known signatures of Burgess.

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SAC, New York (S) [REDACTED]

April 21, 1954

Director, FBI [REDACTED]

DONALD DUART MAC LEAN;  
GUY FRANCIS DE MONCY BURGESS  
ESPIONAGE - R

Reference is made to the New York memorandum of  
March 31, 1954, in this case.

The Bureau desires you to immediately conduct additional investigation relative to the Christmas card in question. You should specifically seek to ascertain the outlets through which these Christmas cards sold and where they were printed. You should interview [REDACTED] of United China Relief, Inc. [REDACTED]

This matter is to be given immediate attention by you, and you should follow through on any leads that are obtained as a result of the interview of [REDACTED]

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April 6, 1954

[REDACTED]

Re: Donald Duart MacLean  
Guy Francis de Moncy Burgess

117 An article in the "Washington Daily News" of March 25, 1954, by Sefton Delmer, a London "Express" staff writer, sets forth the results of an interview with Baron Wolfgang zu Putlitz in Cologne, Germany. Putlitz claimed that he last met Burgess at a farewell party Burgess gave before his departure for the United States. Putlitz, a naturalized British citizen, indicated he had gone to the Eastern zone of Germany and now holds a job in a Communist office in Berlin's Soviet sector. According to the article, Putlitz claimed to have been possibly indirectly responsible for Burgess' flight. (S)

82

September 17, 1954

Re: GUY BURGESS

8-26

A number of reports are circulating here suggesting a connection between Otto John, the West German official who defected, and Guy Burgess.

[REDACTED] Burgess reportedly assisted John in getting out of Portugal and aided him in England.

The above information is similar to an article in the magazine "U. S. News and World Report" dated August 27, 1954, which also connects John, Baron Wolfgang Von Utzitz and Burgess. We had previously called to your attention reports of a connection between Von Utzitz and Burgess.

Walter Winchell, the well-known New York columnist, on his news broadcast of September 12, 1954, stated, "Burgess had a lot to do with the double cross of double agent Mr. John."

We would appreciate receiving from you your comments on the above information and any data available to you reflecting a connection between Burgess and Otto John.

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URGENT

DONALD DUART MACLEAN, ET AL, ESPIONAGE - R. SUNDAY PICTORIAL  
FOR JANUARY 9 LAST CARRIES ARTICLE STATING IT IS KNOWN TO  
FOREIGN OFFICE THAT SUBJECTS ARE LIVING IN MOSCOW AND ARE  
ADVISING SOVIET EXPERTS ON PROPAGANDA.

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URGENT

GUY BURGESS, ET AL, ESPIONAGE - R. TOUAY-S QUOTE DAILY  
EXPRESS UNQUOTE CARRIES ITEM THAT BURGESS, MOTHER HAS DENIED  
REPORT BURGESS IS IN LONDON.

85

SAC, New York (██████████) (orig. & 1)

March 11, 1955

Director, FBI ██████████

DONALD DUART MACLEAN, ET AL  
ESPIONAGE - R

The "New York Times" book review section for 2/27/55 sets forth that a book "The Missing Macleans" has been written by Geoffrey Hoare and is published by the Viking Press. You should secure a copy of this book and forward it to the Bureau for informational purposes.

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## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : A. H. Belmont

DATE: April 19, 1955

FROM : W. A. Branigan

SUBJECT: DONALD D. MACLEAN;  
GUY F. BURGESS  
ESPIONAGE - R

A review has been made of a new book entitled "The Missing Macleans" by Geoffrey Hoare, published in February, 1955, by the Viking Press, New York City. This book provides a rather full and accurate account of the disappearance of Donald Maclean and Guy Burgess in May, 1951, and the disappearance of Melinda Maclean and her children in September, 1953. The author is a friend of Melinda Maclean and is a foreign correspondent for the "London News Chronicle." (b)

[REDACTED]

On page 59 of the book, in speaking of Donald Maclean's early upbringing, the author states "Donald sought and found new gods, a new religion. And that religion was Communism...."

On page 101, in speaking of the period just prior to his disappearance in May, 1951, the author points out that in conversations with his in-laws, the J. Sheers, Maclean openly supported Communism and suggested he, himself, was a Communist.

In the last chapter of the book, the author sets out his own opinions on the reasons for Maclean's disappearance, which, as far as they go, are very accurate. He suggests (on page 192) "Donald was approached by Russian agents and did work for them." "I am sure the first steps in treachery occurred in the U. S. between 1944 and 1948." (page 200) He suggests

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(on page 218) that Burgess also "had for a long time been working for the Soviet Union."

[REDACTED]

There is no mention of the FBI in this book. The author is critical in a mild way of MI-5's handling of the investigation in this matter. The author of this book has done extensive research into the disappearance of these persons and it is evident that most of his facts were obtained through close association with the Maclean family.

ACTION:

None. The foregoing is for your information.

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (██████████)  
cc: FROM : SAC, New York (██████████)  
SUBJECT: DONALD DUART MAC LEAN; ET AL  
ESPIONAGE-R

DATE: 4/7/55

Enclosed herewith is the book "The Missing MacLeans" by GEOFFREY HOARE, which the Bureau requested by letter dated 3/11/55. C.

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**THE COURT OF JUSTICE**  
 QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION  
 PLAINTIFF'S DENIAL OF HELPING  
 MISSING DIPLOMATS  
 STRAUSS V. ASSOCIATED NEWS-  
 PAPERS LTD.

Before MR. JUSTICE ORMEROD and a jury  
 His Lordship began the hearing of this  
 action in which Mr. Karl Strauss, of Ru-  
 dolph Avenue, W.9, claimed damages for  
 libel against the Associated Newspapers  
 Ltd. in respect of the principal item upon the  
 front page of the *Daily Mail* for June 13,  
 1951.

The headlines were: "Paris holds spy  
 Strauss" and "Third man linked with missing  
 diplomats." The article stated: "French  
 police have detained Carl Strauss.  
 The detention of Strauss, a naturalized  
 Briton, has been kept secret for over a week."

When I asked about him at the  
 French Sureté I was told: "Strauss has been  
 detained by the police and has probably  
 been expelled from France by now." Before  
 I raised the question of the missing British  
 diplomats—Mr. Guy Burgess and Mr.  
 Donald Maclean—the official added: "His  
 detention had no connexion whatever with  
 the sum for the Englishmen." Despite this  
 denial of the Sureté, two factors give the  
 arrest special significance: 1. The case is  
 being dealt with by the branch of the Sureté  
 known as "Défense de la Sécurité du  
 territoire"—the French special security  
 police.

"A routine case of an undesirable alien  
 being expelled would be the concern of the  
 normal security service known as 'Renseignements  
 Généraux.'

al. 2. The unusual reluctance of the authori-  
 ties to discuss the case. Normally no par-  
 ticular secret is made of the expulsion of an  
 alien, but to-night the Sureté refused even  
 under pressure to give any details about the  
 Strauss affair. Asked why Strauss had been  
 arrested and over which frontier he had been  
 expelled the only answer was: "Put your  
 questions in writing and if it is desirable we  
 will answer them to-morrow." To-night the  
*France Soir* reports that a foreigner whom  
 Burgess is alleged to have contacted in  
 Britain "appeared before a British Court on  
 March 14 in connexion with a naturalisation  
 case."

It was on March 14 that Strauss heard  
 Sir Hartley Shawcross, then Attorney-  
 General, make the allegations against him  
 which caused him to leave for France.  
 Now Paris is asking: Could Strauss have  
 been contacted by Burgess and Maclean after  
 their arrival in Paris on the train from  
 Rennes on May 26?

The plaintiff alleged that in addition to the  
 ordinary and natural meaning, which was  
 defamatory, the words meant that he had  
 improperly assisted Burgess and Maclean,  
 who were at the time of publication of the  
 words widely supposed to have fled from  
 this country to Russia or to some other  
 country under the influence of Russia for  
 the purpose of acting in a manner prejudicial  
 to the interests of his Majesty and of their  
 fellow subjects, in such a manner as to lead  
 to his arrest and expulsion by the French  
 police, and that by reason of the publication  
 he had been held up to hatred, ridicule and  
 contempt and had suffered damages.

The defendants denied that the words  
 complained of bore the meaning alleged.  
 Any meaning defamatory of the plaintiff  
 alternatively they alleged that the words  
 in their natural and ordinary meaning were  
 true in substance and in fact; and they  
 alleged that the words were fair comment  
 made bona fide and without malice upon  
 a matter of public interest.

Mr. Richard O'Sullivan, Q.C., and Miss  
 Roland Brown appeared for the plaintiff.  
 Mr. Cyril Simpson, Q.C., and Mr. Helens  
 Mullings for the defendants.

**SEARCH FOR BY ASLEEP**

Mr. O'SULLIVAN, for the plaintiff, said  
 that it was a grave libel. The plaintiff, born  
 an Austrian in Prague in 1901, became a  
 Czechoslovakian by the treaty after the First  
 World War. He had been interested in  
 politics on behalf of the German peasants  
 in his country. After the last war broke  
 out he worked in London for Mr. Benes,  
 the Czechoslovakian leader, as a personal  
 assistant from 1941 until Mr. Benes re-  
 turned to Czechoslovakia. In 1948 Czechoslovakia  
 fell under Communist domination. The plaintiff, never having been a Com-  
 munist, remained in London. In 1947 he  
 was refused a renewal of his Czechoslovakian  
 passport and in 1949 he received British  
 nationality and a British passport. In  
 February, 1950, the police went to his flat  
 with a warrant under the Official Secrets Act  
 and searched him and his flat, looking for  
 military stores and dynamite, no doubt on  
 information received from a political enemy.  
 They found nothing that was inimical to  
 society or this country. In 1951 a public  
 enquiry was held into statements which the  
 plaintiff had made in his application for  
 naturalization, it being said that he had not  
 told of his work for the Czechoslovakian  
 authorities in relation to Czechoslovakians  
 in this country. After that, in April, 1951,  
 with a British passport and without  
 hindrance from the authorities, he went to  
 Paris to get work because, as a result of  
 the inquiry, he had lost his job. While in  
 Paris he was interviewed by journalists from  
 English papers. He was suspected by the  
 French police and after they had interviewed  
 him on May 26 he was ordered to leave the  
 country.

Before that order was made Burgess and  
 Maclean disappeared. On June 13 the *Daily Mail*  
 published the words complained of. There was no suggestion that the plaintiff  
 had ever spied in any sense other than that  
 he had made reports on Czechoslovakian  
 émigrés in this country at the time when he  
 was a Czechoslovakian national.

What Sir Hartley Shawcross had had in  
 mind at the public inquiry was that the work  
 on which the plaintiff had been engaged for  
 the Czechoslovakian authorities was  
 mainly concerning the activities of Czechoslovakian  
 émigrés who were disaffected  
 towards the then régime in Czechoslovakia.

**ALLEGED COMMUNIST PLOT**

There was no warrant in any of the  
 inquiries made by the defendants' reporter  
 for any inference that the plaintiff had any  
 connexion with the disappearance of Burgess  
 and Maclean, but notwithstanding the  
 denials to his inquiries, he allowed himself,  
 on the strength of an article in the *France Soir*, to impugn that the plaintiff was  
 engaged in a Communist plot in Paris to get  
 those two Englishmen away.

They, the jury, must think of the  
 wantonness of a statement of that character  
 at such a time about a man who was down  
 and the *Daily Mail* were going to put him  
 out. He was an alien in this country, living  
 here by the good will of the Home Office,  
 and had no nationality that he knew of  
 for his naturalization certificate had been  
 withdrawn.

The plaintiff had done what he could  
 against the strength of the *Daily Mail*; in  
 June, 1951, he had issued the writ. The libel,  
 in spite of official statements made in the  
 House of Commons time after time, had  
 never been withdrawn. There had been no  
 apology, no withdrawal, and, worse than  
 that, the defendants were there to say that  
 the words were true, and that the plaintiff  
 was a link with the missing diplomats  
 employed as a spy in some way giving  
 assistance to those men who were escaping  
 from their country and were concerned with  
 getting behind the iron curtain. The Home  
 Secretary had said, when announcing his  
 decision to withdraw the plaintiff's certificate  
 of naturalization, that, if he had been guilty  
 of any crime, appropriate action would be  
 taken. No action had been taken, and the  
 plaintiff had been given an identity card. He  
 himself asked to submit a counter.

**PLAINTIFF'S EVIDENCE**

The plaintiff, giving evidence in support  
 of his case, said that he had been a member  
 of the Czechoslovakian Agrarian—Conserv-  
 ative—Party. He was never a Communist.  
 He had worked for Mr. Benes in England  
 from 1942 to 1943; he had then met Mr.  
 Creek at the Embassy and he asked him to  
 work for him. He made reports from time  
 to time dealing mainly with political ques-  
 tions; occasionally, but very seldom, he  
 reported about Czechoslovakian émigrés in  
 this country. He worked for a firm of  
 exporters, receiving about £30 a month. He  
 was paid for the reports to the Czechoslovakian  
 authorities, but not a fixed sum.

After Mr. Creek had left in 1947 the  
 witness met a Mr. Zeman and made reports  
 to him. Mr. Zeman became a Communist  
 and he, the witness, became anxious about  
 his position and applied for British nation-  
 ality. He admitted that in his application  
 he had not said anything about the reports  
 he made for the Czechoslovakian Embassy;  
 he thought that if he did he would be less  
 likely to get British nationality. He had  
 never identified himself with the Communists  
 before or after 1949. The police besieged  
 him "like a dog" at his flat searching for  
 weapons and dynamite, but he had none.  
 When he was interviewed by two  
 reporters, one from the *Evening News* and  
 one from the *Daily Sketch*. He did not  
 remember seeing Mr. Gordon Young (the  
*Daily Mail* reporter). He had had nothing  
 to do with Burgess and Maclean and had  
 never seen them.

**WAR OF NERVES**

Cross-examined by Mr. Salmon, the  
 witness agreed that when the Czechoslovakian  
 Government went back to Czechoslovakia in 1945 the Communist influence  
 there was very strong, and that between 1945  
 and 1948 the Conservative and Liberal  
 parties in Czechoslovakia were being liquidated.  
 During the whole period there was  
 a large Czechoslovakian colony in London,  
 and the witness said that it might be that  
 the Czechoslovakian Government was  
 waging a war of nerves against the colony  
 and that, if a man said or did something in  
 London not approved of, pressure was put  
 on him through his relatives in Czechoslovakia.  
 He agreed that any Czechoslovakian living in London who was anti-Communist  
 was naturally rather shy of discussing what he was doing with the members  
 of the Embassy staff.

But he could talk freely to you?—Yes.  
 The witness further agreed that he was  
 well known among the community in London  
 and that he was anti-Communist, inflexibly  
 opposed to the Prague Government. There  
 was a good deal of underground activity in  
 London against Prague and he was engaged  
 in it.

During the whole time were you being  
 paid as a secret agent of the Prague  
 Government?—No. Counsel repeated the  
 question, and the witness answered: "I  
 sometimes received payment from the Prague  
 Government, but I could not be called a  
 secret agent."

Did you receive those payments for keep-  
 ing secrets of the Czechoslovakian colony in  
 London?—Not for betraying the secrets of  
 the Czechoslovakian colony in London.

The witness denied having a code in his  
 dressing-gown pocket when the police called  
 at his flat, and denied that they found notes  
 of instructions on a microfilm hidden in a  
 picture frame.

Did you meet a man in Burlington Gardens  
 who handed you book matches containing  
 some small pieces of microfilm with the  
 secret inscriptions from Prague?—I con-  
 tained notes from Prague, but I never had  
 a secret agent.

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LOVED

4 MAY 1955

HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE  
QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION  
QUESTIONS ABOUT SPYING PUT  
PLAINTIFF IN LIBEL ACTION  
STRAUSS v. ASSOCIATED  
NEWSPAPERS LTD.

Before MR. JUSTICE ORMEROD and a jury  
The hearing was continued of this action in which Mr. Karl Strauss, of Rudolph Avenue, W.8, claimed damages for libel against Associated Newspapers Ltd. in respect of the principal item upon the front page of the *Daily Mail* for June 1951, under the headlines "Paris holds Strauss" and "Third man link with missing diplomats?"

Mr. Richard O'Sullivan, Q.C., and Mr. Roland Brown appeared for the plaintiff. Mr. Cyril Salmon, Q.C., and Mr. Helmut Milmo for the defendants.

Continuing his cross-examination of the plaintiff, Mr. Cyril Salmon said that yesterday day the plaintiff had said that the notes found by the police hidden in a photograph in his flat were not notes of microfilm instructions received from Prague, but were notes received from Mr. Weishkopf, whom he had said was employed by the British.

Counsel referred to the statement made by the witness to the police, that the notes had been made from instructions received on microfilm, and the witness replied: "I did not say it. That statement was dictated by the inspector and given to me to read and sign. I was promised that if I signed it nothing more would happen to me."

ALLEGATION CALLED "SHOCKING"

That is a shocking allegation to make against the police. Are you suggesting that they were asking you to sign something that was not true?—They did not understand. Mr. Weishkopf had told me to put the notes in a safe place because many Czechoslovakian émigrés came to my flat.

Which is a lie; the evidence which you gave on oath before the committee which failed to determine whether you should be deprived of British nationality, that the notes on the microfilm were hidden behind the photograph, or the evidence which you gave before my Lord and the jury that they were not?—The evidence which I gave yesterday and to-day is the truth.

So what you told the committee was true?—I wouldn't say that; the notes were taken up.

It is only fair to give you one more chance. The police are going to give evidence about what was found behind the photograph. And you still telling the jury that the notes behind the photograph were not notes of the microfilm instructions received from Prague? They were not notes concerning the microfilm from Prague.

Do you agree that there were five pieces of paper behind the photograph?—Yes.

Five other pieces of paper?—Yes.  
Applying to further questions, the witness said that the notes found by the police had been dictated by Mr. Weishkopf in his (the witness's) flat. Mr. Weishkopf was now living in London. He agreed that he told the police that he gave Mr. Zeman details of public and private meetings held by right-wing Czechoslovakians and by which individual statements were made, but said that the dates and times were invented. Most of the names were invented; he copied them from newspapers.

You agreed yesterday that the authorities in Prague would have means of knowing if you were writing names down?—Yes.

INVENTED STORIES

So that they were inventing anything you must have been inventing stories of anti-Communist activities by real people?—I invented some; they were about people who were not at all in some danger.

Yesterday I asked you if you could think of a more disgusting traffic than that and you said that you could; you say that you took money from Prague knowing that these people had relatives in Czechoslovakia?—Yes.

And you are asking a British jury to give you money because the Press have said that you are a spy?—I asked first for the statement of the *Daily Mail* that it was not true that I was connected with the missing diplomats.

Re-examined, the witness said that when the police had visited his flat they had said that they came because he was suspected of being in possession of dynamite and military secrets. The five pieces of paper found behind the photograph were pieces of paper bearing scrawls. After the police left he had a telephone call from them saying that the investigation was closed and that there was nothing wrong.

Nothing more had happened until six months later, when he received the letter about making false statements. No charge had ever been made against him by the police in this country and after his certificate of naturalization had been withdrawn he received a certificate of registration under the Aliens Restriction Act. He had not betrayed Mr. Clementis; he was connected with him, but did not betray him.

Had it ever been alleged before yesterday that you betrayed Clementis?—Yes; it was alleged that through my case the execution came about because it was disclosed that I was in connexion with him.

JUDGE'S QUESTION

MR. JUSTICE ORMEROD.—If Mr. Clementis was mentioned only in that part of the proceedings which was heard *in camera*, how did it get into the newspapers?—It was not in the English Press. It was a message from Czechoslovakia received in Switzerland; the Swiss Press published a message from the underground and the paper came to England. In it I was justified.

In answer to further questions from counsel, the witness said that it was not a report about his case, but a statement that he was in touch with Clementis. He had never been given any information about Clementis. When Clementis was executed he was manager of a bank: he was already in decline in Prague, but had been foreign secretary before then, after Masaryk died. Masaryk had died when he was foreign secretary. He had had nothing to do with the death of Masaryk.

Weishkopf was a real person and so far as he knew he was doing work for the British Intelligence services.

MR. CYRIL SALMON: What was the case for the plaintiff?—The plaintiff has

been EXPOSED BY THE DEFENDANTS

MR. SALMON said that he did not propose to open the case and would call his witnesses.

Detective-sergeant William John Jeffcock, of New Scotland Yard, gave evidence of going to the defendant's flat in 1950 to execute a search warrant under the Official Secrets Act, 1911. Asked about the plaintiff's reaction when the pieces of paper were discovered in the photograph frame, the witness said he seemed quite calm. The witness said that he wrote down a statement made by Strauss and saw him sign his name below the caution.

MR. MILMO said that the plaintiff was bairn said that he read the statement over and signed it because the police said that nothing further would happen. The witness implied that he was not told that no promise or inducement was made to him. The statement was made voluntarily in every way.

It was alleged that the plaintiff in the course of the statement said: "I frankly confess that in working for the authorities in Prague my conduct had been dishonourable. I have been a coward in not having the courage to end the matter by refusing to do any more work. I have no relatives in Czechoslovakia but I feared the unpleasant developments which would have followed both for me and my friends among the exiles had my activities been known to the British Government by the people who controlled me from Prague."

CASE FOR DEFENDANTS

MR. SALMON said that the evidence for the defendants was completed. Before addressing the jury he wished to say that the case on the plea of fair comment would be that the passage in the article referring to Burgess and Maclean meant that the plaintiff was the sort of man who might be the link with them, and he would invite the jury to say that in the circumstances as proved that was fair comment, in the public interest, that the sort of man that the plaintiff was.

The other point, counsel continued, in opposing the article meant that the plaintiff was the link, the only defamatory significance would be that he would necessarily or probably be a paid spy of some country behind the iron curtain. Counsel referred to section 5 of the Defamation Act, 1952, and said that the fact that the plaintiff was not the link, because it had never been suggested in the Court, that he was the actual man who assisted Burgess and Maclean to get behind the iron curtain, would, if it did, bring him into court. He would submit that that position

(OVER)

3.

merely stated what the law was—namely, that if ~~the Act~~ ~~the Act~~ said ~~that~~ ~~the plaintiff~~ could not recover anything. He conceded that the Act itself did not apply because the proceedings had been commenced before it came into operation.

MR. O'SULLIVAN said that at common law a plaintiff was entitled to recover damages assessed by a jury having regard to the conduct of the defendants. Section 5 had effected a change in the law, and was not in substance the law at the time when the proceedings were started.

MR. SALMON, addressing the jury, asked how any man could have the temerity to come into Court in the circumstances of this case and ask a British jury to give him money. If what the defendants had said about the plaintiff was true he was not entitled to anything. Truth was a complete defence. The defendants had said that he was a spy and, on what he had himself admitted, was there the slightest doubt of the truth of that? From 1945 until certainly 1950 he had been a paid secret agent of the régime in Prague, where from 1945 the Communists held the dominant positions in the Government, and it was not safe for a Czechoslovakian who was an anti-Communist to return. The plaintiff took money from the régime in Prague for spying on the Czechoslovakians in London and reported what they were doing. He had said that he did not know of anybody except himself who could anyone know what happened behind the iron curtain.

Of course no complaint was made because no one in London knew that the plaintiff was carrying on that disgusting traffic. All the time he was pretending to be anti-Communistic. Could they think of anything baser than that, or of greater treachery?

Referring to the alleged libel, counsel said that it was suggested that the sting in it was that the plaintiff was a spy. The jury might think that that had been proved beyond a peradventure. It was fantastic, was it not, that this man should come here and ask for damages for libel. Counsel suggested that read fairly the article did not say that he was the link with the missing diplomats. It suggested that he might be the link, but not the way they think it was fair.

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REFUGEE FRIENDS SECRET AGENTS  
had heard the evidence and they knew this dreadful traffic in which the plaintiff was engaged, selling his friends. The plaintiff had come before the jury and said that he had taken money for selling secrets of his friends in London to Prague and now he said he wanted them to give him damages for libel. He (counsel) hoped that by their verdict the jury would express their contempt at his behaviour and their contempt for actions of this sort.

MR. O'SULLIVAN, making his final address to the jury, said that in Hobbs v. Tinling & Co., Ltd. ([1929] 2 K.B. 1), Lord Justice Greer (at p. 46) had said that a man did not lose his right to damages because his character was not free from reproach, and if newspapers for their own purposes falsely alleged that he had been guilty of crimes and misconduct the jury might well consider that even a man of ~~bad~~ character ought not to have his character ~~spilled~~ out to be blacker than the proved facts.

VII. "NO LONGER IN FRANCE"  
Referring to the alleged libel, he (counsel) said in the ordinary sense of the word was it fair to say in France that he was a spy? He was no longer in France when they said "Paris holds spy Strauss." "Third man link with missing diplomats?" It was said by the defence that because there was a query it was all right. If the law tolerated such a thing all our situations as citizens would be in peril. The papers could put everything into an interrogative form. The basis of his (counsel's) whole argument was that this article meant that the plaintiff was probably associated, or alternatively was in fact associating, with the missing diplomats. He suggested that the words meant what the plaintiff said they meant; that that meaning was defamatory and that there were two or three misstatements of fact. He asked for a verdict in favour of the plaintiff for such temperate and modest damages as the jury thought fit. His Lordship said that he would begin his summing-up in the morning.

The hearing was adjourned.  
Solicitors.—Messrs. Edward Davies Nelson & Co.; Messrs. Lewis & Lewis and Gibbons & Co. ~~as man~~ THAT PIZZA PATRIOTIC

HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE  
QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION  
JUDGMENT FOR NEWSPAPER IN  
"SPY" ACTION  
STRAUSS v. ASSOCIATED  
NEWSPAPERS LTD.

Before MR. JUSTICE ORMEROD and a Jury

Judgment was entered for the defendants in this action in which Mr. Karl Strauss, of Rudolph Avenue, W.8, claimed damages for libel against Associated Newspapers Ltd. in respect of the principal item upon the front page of the *Daily Mail* for June 13, 1951, under the headlines "Paris holds spy Strauss" and "Third man link with missing diplomats".

Mr. Richard O'Sullivan, Q.C., and Mr. Roland Brown appeared for the plaintiff; Mr. Cyril Salmon, Q.C., and Mr. Helene Maclean for the defendants.

SUMMING-UP

MR. JUSTICE ORMEROD, summing up, said that the libel, defining it in a general way, was something written and published of a person which held him up to hatred, ridicule, or contempt. A man's reputation was something which he was entitled to have guarded. The plaintiff said that his reputation had been injured, first, because the *Daily Mail* said that he was a spy, and secondly, because they said that in that capacity as a spy he had assisted in some way or other in enabling the two missing diplomats, Burgess and Maclean, to escape from this country and get behind the iron curtain. The plaintiff said that he had been falsely accused of being a spy and in assisting in that escape. If the defendants satisfied them, the jury, on the evidence that the plaintiff was a spy, then that was not defamatory because it was true; if the defendants failed to satisfy them of that, then the whole document was defamatory.

The plaintiff said that the article went further and said that he was the link with the missing diplomats. He (his Lordship) asked that the words were capable of bearing that meaning and the jury had to decide whether in fact the article, read as a whole, meant that the plaintiff was the missing link or whether it meant, as the defendants said, no more than that he was the sort of man who might have been, in all the circumstances, the link. If that was what the words meant, that would be a defamatory statement of the plaintiff unless the defendants could satisfy them, and there was no evidence, that he was the link with the diplomats.

If they came to the conclusion that the plaintiff was a spy, and that the words meant that he was the sort of man who might have been the link with the diplomats, then the defendants said that the words were not defamatory in themselves because they were fair comment on a matter of public interest. The plaintiff invited him (his Lordship) to give before them whether that in itself was defamatory. If it were said of a man that he was a spy, and not only that he was a spy but that he assisted in the escape of the diplomats, that was adding defamation to defamation, but the defendants said that the words were not a statement of fact but merely a comment, and that on the facts it was not unreasonable to say, as comment on a matter which affected the public, that he was the sort of man who might have assisted the diplomats.

The evidence as to whether or not the plaintiff was a spy was almost entirely that of the plaintiff himself. He had said that he was not because what he was doing was to make reports on political movements which handicapped foreign newspapers, and that much of the information was necessarily unreliable as it depended on what he was doing, and that he was not necessarily a spy.

There was no background for the accusation.

"They" would remember that in cross-examination the plaintiff had said that he knew that pressure would be put on the relatives in Czechoslovakia of Czechoslovakian émigrés who were known to be acting in an anti-Communist way, and the background for the defendants' accusation was that, in spite of that knowledge, he undertook to report from time to time on members of the Czechoslovakian community in this country. He admitted that it was put to him by a member of the Czechoslovakian Embassy that he was in a position to get in touch with the Czechoslovakians who least to the right, and that, having done that, he could report to the Embassy on what those people did.

There was no doubt that that was what the plaintiff agreed to do. He had said that he never said anything that could cause damage to members of the Czechoslovakian community in London because the information given was either invented or completely worthless. The defendants said that on that evidence he was a spy of the worst possible character because it was his business to worm his way into the confidence of people and then to report about them to their enemies. They, the jury, might think that if that was what the plaintiff did, he had found a most unpleasant way of earning his living. They might think it unlikely that a man could go on from 1945 until 1950 or 1951 giving false information to the Prague Government in return for some £40 to £50 a month without some check being made as to its accuracy and value.

“ LIKE A NOVEL ”

They might ask themselves why, if what he was doing was above board, he had adopted the elaborate method of transferring reports of which they had heard, and they might think that it almost read like a novel by Phillips Oppenheim. Was that what people did if they were not acting in a secret manner? Why did the instructions come on microfilms? The defendants had to satisfy them (the jury) that the plaintiff was a spy; if they were not satisfied then clearly, in calling him a spy, this document was defamatory.

The next question was whether or not the words meant not only that he was a spy but a spy who was in association with the missing diplomats. They must not merely consider the question mark in the headline, but look at the article as a whole. What did they think? Did it give them the impression that the plaintiff was in association with Burgess and Maclean?

QUESTIONS FOR JURY

His Lordship said that the following were the questions which he would put to the jury:

1. Apart from the reference to the missing diplomats, were the words true in substance and in fact—that was, that the plaintiff was a spy and had been held by the Paris police?

2. Did the words of the article mean that the plaintiff was associated with the missing diplomats, reading it as common-sense ordinary men and women would?

3. If "Yes," were the words defamatory? Did they hold the plaintiff up to hatred, ridicule, and contempt; did they blacken his reputation further in the estimation of his friends?

4. Were they fair comment?

5. Damages?

On the question of damages, a man was entitled to compensation if his reputation was falsely impugned by other people and it was said that he was a spy, and as such, that might be said to be a serious charge. If they came to the conclusion that the plaintiff was a spy, the question was how much he was not entitled to compensation because nothing had been proved in that respect. If they concluded that the words meant that he was assisting Burgess and Maclean, they must consider whether he was entitled to substantial damages. If they found that the plaintiff was not a spy, they would have to consider whether the further allegation, if it was true, and added in any appreciable way, to the statement that he was a spy. They might think that if he was a spy, anything he said about Burgess and Maclean was something which did not merit more than the smallest sum in damages, but, on the other hand, they might think a moderate sum warranted.

The jury returned the following answers to the questions: 1, Yes; 2, No.; 3, No.; 4, Yes; 5, None.

PAYMENT OUT OF ONE PENNY

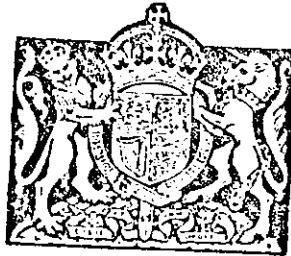
Mr. Salmon asked for judgment for the defendants with costs. He said that he also asked for the payment out of the sum of £1 paid into Court.

His Lordship gave judgment for the defendants with costs and made an order for the payment out of the sum of money in Court to the defendants' solicitors.

Solicitors.—Messrs. Edward Davies Nelson Co.; Messrs. Letts & Lewis and Suborne & CO. TA JI TIV T100

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Volume 540  
No. 77



Wednesday  
27th April, 1955

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*See page 959*

# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

## HOUSE OF COMMONS OFFICIAL REPORT

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TUESDAY, 26th APRIL, 1955  
[Continuation of Proceedings]

ADJOURNMENT DEBATE [Col. 899]:  
War Pensions (Disseminated Sclerosis)

OR

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RE: DONALD DUART MacLEAN, et al.  
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Oral Answers

27 APRIL 1955

Oral Answers

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getting passports signed when, "at the same time, we are going to allow pass-free travel from some of the South Coast ports? Will the Minister not look into this matter again to see if these conditions can be alleviated for these poor people?"

Mr. Turton: No, Sir. All persons travelling abroad are expected to have a valid travel document satisfactorily establishing identity and nationality. In fact, the special excursion arrangements recently announced by my right hon. and gallant Friend the Home Secretary include provision for a special identity document to be taken by such travellers.

Mr. Attlee: Would it not be possible on an occasion like this to grant free documents to these people?

Mr. Turton: Arrangements are being made in this case, as in cases of similar journeys sponsored by the British Legion, whereby the travel document is supplied for a very small charge—the charge is 7s. 6d.—and in these cases no formalities, such as the production of a birth certificate, are necessary.

Mr. Attlee: Seven and sixpence is quite a lot to a widow.

Mr. Evans: In view of the very unsatisfactory and disappointing answer, I propose to raise the matter on the Adjournment.

## BURGESS AND MACLEAN

4. Lieut.-Colonel Lipton asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what further investigations are being made into the disappearance of Burgess and Maclean; and what is the result of these investigations.

Mr. H. Macmillan: I cannot add anything to the reply given to the hon. and gallant Member by the Minister of State on 31st January last.

Lieut.-Colonel Lipton: Will the Minister say for how much longer this solemn four-year old farce of investigation will be continued? What, if anything, has been the result of his investigations to date? Will he abandon what looks like a foolish expenditure of time, money and effort?

Mr. Macmillan: I shall consider how to resolve that dilemma.

Mrs. Mann: Will the right hon. Gentleman consider the very simple expedient of asking the Russians if they know anything about Burgess and Maclean and tell them that if they would like any more like Burgess and Maclean they have just to ask us and we will send them over? [HON. MEMBERS: "Answer."] I want an answer. Has Russia been asked?

## BRITISH EMBASSY, TOKIO (BULLETIN)

5. Mrs. Castle asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the attack on the Peking Government in the current issue of "British Opinion," published by the British Information Services in Tokio, was made with his approval.

Mr. Turton: I would refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Broxtowe (Mr. Warbey) on 25th April.

Mrs. Castle: Is the hon. Gentleman aware that the reply given by his right hon. Friend rather regrettably seemed to condone this article, an article which was described by the diplomatic correspondent of the "Manchester Guardian" as a slashing attack on the Chinese Government. That correspondent also described it as hardly calculated to have a useful effect on the peoples of South-East Asia, or indeed anywhere else. Can we have a repudiation of that policy by the Government?

Mr. Turton: If the hon. Lady reads my right hon. Friend's reply, she will see that he put this article in its proper perspective.

Mrs. Castle: On the contrary, is the hon. Gentleman aware that his right hon. Friend went out of his way to say that he thought that the article was very small beer? Does he not realise it has caused a good deal of uneasiness in South-East Asia, where we are trying to win support for our view that we stand for peaceful co-existence?

Mr. Turton: I refer the hon. Lady to the reply given by my right hon. Friend, which in fact she has quoted quite incorrectly.

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GUY BURGESS, ET AL, ESPIONAGE - R. TODAY DAILY EXPRESS  
CARRIED ARTICLE DTE LINED BELGRADE, STATING THAT AC-  
CORDING TO A STATEMENT BY HIGHLY RESPONSIBLE SOVIET  
SOURCE MADE DURING CONFERENCES WITH TITO, SUBJECTS ARE  
LIVING JUST OUTSIDE MOSCOW AND DOING QUITE A SPECIAL  
JOB UNQUOTE.

(DIPLOMATS)

LONDON--TWO BRITISH DIPLOMATS WHO VANISHED FOUR YEARS AGO ARE WORKING IN MOSCOW ON A "SPECIAL JOB" FOR THE RUSSIANS, THE DAILY EXPRESS REPORTED.

RENE MACCOLL, ROVING CORRESPONDENT FOR THE EXPRESS, SAID HE LEARNED THEIR WHEREABOUTS FROM "A HIGHLY RESPONSIBLE SOVIET SOURCE" WHILE HE WAS IN BELGRADE FOR LAST WEEK'S RUSSIAN-YUGOSLAV TALKS.

HE SAID DONALD MACLEAN AND GUY BURGESS, WHOSE 1951 DISAPPEARANCE REMAINS ONE OF THE MAJOR MYSTERIES OF THE COLD WAR, "ARE LIVING JUST OUTSIDE MOSCOW."

"UNTIL NOW NO RUSSIAN HAS EVER ADMITTED THAT MACLEAN AND BURGESS HAD SOUGHT SANCTUARY BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN, LET ALONE GONE TO MOSCOW," MACCOLL WROTE.

"BUT NOW A RUSSIAN--AND THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT HE IS VERY WELL-INFORMED AND HAS ACCESS TO OFFICIAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION--CONFIRMS THAT MACLEAN AND BURGESS ARE INDEED LIVING NEAR MOSCOW."

"WHAT ARE THEY DOING?" SAID THE RUSSIAN: "IT IS A SPECIAL JOB."

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ENCLOSURE

WASHINGTON CITY NEWS SERVICE

# MacLean and Burgess Reported Near Moscow

By RENE MacCOLL

North American Newspaper Alliance

BELGRADE, June 6.—Donald MacLean and Guy Burgess, the British Foreign Office officials who disappeared from England in the spring of 1951, and about whose whereabouts the Western world has been speculating ever since, are living "just outside Moscow."

I am able to say this definitely on the strength of a statement from a highly responsible Soviet source, made during the conference between President Tito and the Russian "friendship" delegation which has just ended here.

Until now, no Russian has admitted that MacLean and Burgess had sought sanctuary on the eastern side of the Iron Curtain—let alone gone to Moscow. When I was in the USSR last year, I asked scores of people about the two missing British diplomats. Blank looks were the reply to my queries; nobody had any information—or, if they had, they were not talking.

## On "Special Job"

But now a Russian—and there is no doubt that he is very well informed and has access to official sources of information—confirms that MacLean and Burgess are indeed living near Moscow.

What are they doing, said the Russian: "It is a special job."

What about Mrs. Melinda MacLean, Donald's American wife who suddenly fled from Geneva late in the summer of 1953 and disappeared in Vienna with the MacLean children?

"About Mrs. MacLean I know nothing," the Russian said. "I have not seen her. I know only about MacLean and Burgess."

This admission, coming after four years of tight-lipped silence on the part of Moscow over just what happened to the two British Foreign Office men, ties in with all sorts of extraordinary developments which are affecting the East-West relations almost from day to day.

Never have I found Russian

officials so affable and pleasant as here in Belgrade last week. They were all smiles and readily found time for a bit of talk, a smoke, and a joke.

There is no doubt that the Russian Diplomats are aiming to be nice—and are doing it gracefully, too. What it causes one to wonder is this:

Only a few weeks ago Moscow decided to come clean about Bruno Pontecorvo, the British-naturalized atomic scientist who fled from Britain in 1950 and made his way to Russia via Finland.

Pontecorvo was permitted not long ago to write a dramatic letter to the Russian newspaper Pravda revealing that he was in Moscow and then, under the aegis of the Soviet authorities, he gave a mammoth press conference and posed for photographs.

If Pontecorvo, why not MacLean and Burgess?

It would not surprise me if any day now there should be a letter in Pravda signed by the two former Foreign Office diplomats.

Russian faces are wreathed in smiles. Voices are gentle. "Niet!" is nowadays a nasty word with them and "of course" has taken its place.

So perhaps MacLean and Burgess will be emerging any day now from their "dachas" (suburban villas) and the seclusion of those "special jobs" they have, to give a Moscow press conference which would clear up quite a lot.

Wash. Post and  
Times Herald

Wash. News

Wash. Star

N. Y. Herald Tribune

N. Y. Mirror

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ENCLOSURE

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## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : J. V. BOARDMAN

DATE: August 19, 1955

FROM : A. P. BELCHER

SUBJECT: DONALD DAWSON MACLEAN, et al  
EXPIRED - 1

The Legat at London has furnished two news articles concerning extent of influence wielded by Donald Maclean and Guy Burgess on the present Soviet policy towards the West.

One article entitled "Are those the Men Behind the Great De-Freedom?" by Ian Colvin, published in the "Empire News" Sunday, August 7, 1955, London, England. In this article, Colvin says that the skillful talk and friendly gestures of Soviet statesmen at Geneva, the long series of conciliatory actions that paved their way there, suggest that an expert backroom team is giving close advice to the Kremlin on how to soften the West. Colvin speculates of Maclean and Burgess who have special knowledge of American affairs and Anglo-American relations as acting as "prompters" to the Soviets in their dealings with the West. Colvin suggests that if these men were not in a high advisory capacity, they would have been displayed to the world long ago. The second news article entitled "Borg - Burgess and Maclean May Appear" was published in the "Sunday Express" on August 7, 1955, London, England, and written by Empire news reporter. This article speculates that Burgess and Maclean may now show their faces to the world for the first time since they deserted their Foreign Office jobs and disappeared from Britain four years ago. The reason for such speculation is given as due to the thaw in the cold war. This article points out that by returning to England they could expose themselves to charges under the Official Secrets Act, according to a Foreign Office man. This article quotes the Foreign Office man as saying, "a charge would depend on what it was believed the men had actually done. Otherwise the men have committed no offence."

ENCL

ATT-DM:

None. For your information.

REF ID: A818138 8 AUG 24 1955

P.D. 5000  
= (5)

99

# Office Memorandum

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : L. B. NICHOLS

DATE: 7-29-55

FROM : D. J. PARSONS

SUBJECT: DONALD DUART MacLEAN  
GUY FRANCIS DE MONCY BURGESS  
ESPIONAGE - R

100-374183

There is attached the file which has been maintained in the Laboratory in connection with the above-captioned matter. It is desired that this file be maintained as an enclosure behind the main file in the Records Section.

100-374183  
NOT RECORDED

21 AUG 1 1955

Attachment

EN

Tolson  
Boardman  
Nichols  
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Mohr  
Parsons  
Rosen  
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Sizoo  
Winterrowd  
Tele. Room  
Holloman  
Gandy

Severn M

100

# Now-Burgess and Maclean may appear

EMPIRE NEWS REPORTER

GUY BURGESS and Donald Maclean may show their faces to the world outside the Iron Curtain for the first time since they deserted their Foreign Office jobs and disappeared from Britain four years ago—all because of the thaw in the cold war.

But by returning to this country they could expose themselves to charges under the Official Secrets Act, said a Foreign Office man yesterday. "A charge would depend on what it is believed the men had actually done. Otherwise the men have committed no offence."

The great thaw that has already brought amazing concessions by the Communist world has now also brought acknowledgment for the first time by Russian and British diplomats of the runways' presence behind the Iron Curtain.

## Gave advice

Maclean and Burgess know nothing about atom bombs, but it has long been suspected they had a hand in advising upon Russian propaganda.

The usefulness of these two ex-Foreign Office men to the Russians is considered to be about over. They were small fry in the diplomatic world. It was only their

manner of departure and speculation which gave them household-familiar names.

Now the stage is set for their reappearance. Officially the Foreign Office knows nothing of the M. and B. story. Some officials doubt whether it would be to Russian advantage even now to mention the two men, let alone produce them.

But this view is not shared generally by foreign diplomats in London.

Since he went away Guy Burgess has sent two letters to his mother, Mrs. J. R. Bassett, of Arlington-house, Piccadilly.

The first was at Christmas, 1953, posted in London by a courier from Czechoslovakia, and the second a year later with a London postmark.

And Donald Maclean? There were no letters to his wife Melinda—only £2,000 made payable to her by an unknown man in a Swiss bank a few months after Maclean's disappearance.

And a year ago Mrs. Maclean with her two children vanished from Lausanne and has never been heard of again.



Burgess.



Maclean.

behind / 02

the  
men

Are  
these -



# THE GREAT DE-FREEZE?

WHOSE brains are behind the Big De-freeze with Soviet Russia?

The skilful talk and friendly gestures of Soviet statesmen at Geneva, the long series of conciliatory actions that paved their way there, suggest that an expert backroom team is giving close advice to the Kremlin on how to soften the West.

It is certainly not Molotov and Gromyko, whose technique has lagged a little behind the others.

It is improbable that lesser Soviet bureaucrats have produced the master method that transforms Russians we meet from sullen automatons into beaming buddies.

Indeed it cannot be a Russian at all: for some recent Soviet strokes display an uncanny grasp of Western reactions. Whoever it is, he is a demon for psychology. He knows us almost too well.

'I DETECT the hand of two men in Russia's new show of friendship... the hand of the vanished diplomats, Burgess and Maclean'

by IAN COLVIN

## I BELIEVE IT

FOUR years ago, when two discredited British Foreign Office men decamped behind the Iron Curtain, I strongly resisted the idea that they would play a further role in Soviet policy. Two years ago, when I heard this theory again from a shrewd observer, I was still reluctant to believe it.

But I believe it now. I believe that much of this extraordinary change-of-face by Russia's leaders that amazes and delights the British and American public is the secret work of Donald Maclean and Guy Burgess.

I do not suggest that Maclean and Burgess have actually changed Soviet policy. What I do suggest is that once Soviet policy was changed, they suddenly became immensely useful.

I think they are acting as prompters. They have initiated the Russian mind into the mysteries of the Western mind—an almost interplanetary feat—and taught them how to keep "the ball in play" with a rapidity that is beginning to leave the West rather breathless.

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## HIS BREAK

**C**ONSIDER the facts of the Maclean and Burgess affair. Donald Maclean, a brilliant if erratic British diplomat of Counsellor's rank with special knowledge of American affairs and Anglo-American relations, decided in 1951 to cut and run for Russia.

He was quite a prize; for he knew the secret form in Washington and London almost equally well. He was obviously sincere in his move and useful when he arrived: for the Russians found ways of transferring £2,000 to his wife Melinda. She was enticed into Switzerland and thence smuggled into Russia with her children to join her husband. That suggests some long-term employment of a political nature for her husband.

It is my belief that in the course of his embassy duties in Washington Maclean formed the strong impression that America, then sole custodian of the atom bomb, was moving towards a preventive war with Russia.

That would explain the passionate outbursts against Americans. It would give a

desperate idealist a motive for going East. It may even be that the wild man of British diplomacy has since managed to infect the Russians with his own apprehensions, and bring them to reason.

Of course the death of Stalin in March 1953 made many things possible. But even before that there were signs of an unusual mind at work in the service of the Kremlin.

When the East Coast floods fund was opened in February 1953, Russia sent us £90,000—a gesture that would have occurred neither to Stalin nor Molotov. For our little catastrophes are small compared with the sufferings of Asia. And the Kremlin men without prompting would hardly give Britain's floods a thought.

## GET-TOGETHER

**W**ITH bewildering speed the friendship campaign rolled on through the Malenkov interim. It was not left to an exchange of speeches and Notes. Russian newspapers ceased to claim that a Russian had invented the steam engine, that Edison stole the telephone from a Russian professor, and Marconi filched his wireless ideas from an unrecognised Leningrad genius. This return to sanity was accompanied by a subtle get-together technique.

I ascribe to the Maclean and Burgess brains trust such touches as the evening in a Moscow theatre devoted to British contemporary art,

the early 1954 directive to Russian diplomats in Washington and London to go drinking more with Western acquaintances, the stopping of dreary Marxist tracts, the sending of ballet companies and singers instead.

I ascribe to them also the dropping of the Red Dean. For someone has insinuated to the Kremlin leaders that there are better ways of getting tension relaxed than parading this one-man ecclesiastical band.

Better facilities for tourists and journalists, a donation to U.N. funds for children, reasoned and prompt Press reaction in Moscow, palatable advertising on British hoardings, football teams and rowing fours, delegates to the Edinburgh Festival.

Some of these visitors may be Secret Service men, but nevertheless in the war of gestures Russia has not been left behind. She is actually ahead of us. Someone has taught the Soviet leaders how to use public opinion the Western way.

## LIFE'S WORK

**I**F Maclean and Burgess were not in a high advisory capacity in Russia they would have been displayed to the world long ago, like the ineffectual Otto John in East Germany. They would have been allowed to broadcast and write articles for the Press. They would have been getting drunk and smashing up cafes in satellite capitals. Instead of that, they have found their life's work.

To be sure the De-freeze has many architects at all levels, from Churchill at the Summit to the left wing of the Parliamentary Labour Party. But those deft and rapid touches in Moscow are the work of a team on the spot. What other experts are there who have chosen the East? You could count them on the fingers of one hand.

And none of them seems so well suited to advise on what the West likes as Donald Duart Maclean ably supported by Guy de Money Burgess.

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Date: August 19, 1955

To: [REDACTED]

Office of Security  
Department of State  
515 22nd Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C.

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Donald Stuart Maclean is a former member of the British Diplomatic Service who disappeared from England in May, 1951, together with Guy Burgess, also formerly with the British Diplomatic Service. Melinda Maclean disappeared with her three children from Switzerland in September, 1953.

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Letter to SAC, New York

[REDACTED] Maclean and Guy Burgess are former members of the British Diplomatic Service who disappeared from Great Britain in May, 1951. Mrs. Maclean and her three children disappeared from Geneva, Switzerland, in September, 1953. Although not definitely established, it is believed that they are now residing behind the Iron Curtain.

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URGENT

DONALD DUART MACLEAN, ET AL, ESPIONAGE - R. REMYCABLE  
SEPTEMBER 23. TODAY PRESS DESCRIBES WHITE PAPER PUBLISHED  
LATE YESTERDAY AS A PATHETIC AND UNCONVINCING DOCUMENT,  
WHICH REVEALS BUNGLING, OMITS FACTS AND TELLS LITTLE NEW.  
PRESS CRITICAL OF LONG DELAY BY SECURITY AUTHORITIES IN  
ESTABLISHING SUBJECTS IDENTITIES AND ALSO FOR NOT MAKING  
ADEQUATE ARRANGEMENTS AT ALL PORTS TO PREVENT THEIR DE-  
PARTURE FROM ENGLAND. PRESS DISSATISFIED WITH EXPLANATION  
RE DISAPPEARANCE AND NOW ASKS WHO IN FOREIGN OFFICE WARNED  
SUBJECTS, AS THEY DISAPPEARED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE SECURITY  
SERVICE WAS AUTHORIZED BY THE FOREIGN SECRETARY TO QUESTION  
THEM. BUREAU WILL BE FURTHER INFORMED.

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URGENT

DONALD DUART MACLEAN, ETAL, ESPIONAGE - R. ALL SUNDAY PAPERS CONTINUE ATTACKING CONFORMITY AND INEFFICIENCY AND CARELESSNESS OF SECURITY SERVICE. CRITICISM OF WHITE PAPER OMISSION ALSO CONTINUES. SUNDAY PICTORIAL HEADLINED THAT BOTH SUBJECTS WERE NOTORIOUS SEX PERVERTS AND ASKS WHY THIS WAS NOT MENTIONED IN WHITE PAPER AS IT IS ONE OF THE KEYS TO THE SCANDAL. PRESS STRONGLY PRESSING FOR DISCLOSURE OF IDENTITY OF THIRD MAN WHO TIPPED OFF SUBJECTS, ASKING IF HE HAS BEEN PUNISHED OR FIRED, AND IF UNKNOWN TO AUTHORITIES, WHAT ACTION IS BEING TAKEN, SUGGESTING THAT THESE ARE QUESTIONS THAT WILL BE ASKED WHEN PARLIAMENT REASSEMBLES OCTOBER 25. P. SHINWELL, FORMER MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND SECRETARY OF WAR, IN ARTICLE IN SUNDAY DISPATCH, REVIEWS CASES OF OTHER ESPIONAGE AGENTS WHO SLIPPED THROUGH SECURITY NET AND SUGGESTS IMMEDIATE THOROUGH INVESTIGATION OF SECURITY SERVICES AND ITS LIAISON WITH FOREIGN OFFICE AND OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS. FOREIGN OFFICE HAS REFRAINED FROM MAKING ANY OTHER RELEASES THIS CASE.

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(MACLEAN-BURGESS)

OTTAWA.--IGOR GOUZENKO, FORMER RUSSIAN CIPHER CLERK IN THE  
EMBASSY HERE, MAY HAVE POINTED THE FIRST FINGER OF SUSPICION AT  
BRITISH DIPLOMATS GUY BURGESS AND DONALD MACLEAN TEN YEARS AGO, IT  
WAS REPORTED TODAY.

GOUZENKO TOLD CANADIAN AUTHORITIES IN 1945 OF A SOVIET SPY RING  
OPERATING IN LONDON WHICH HE RANKED "OF FIRST IMPORTANCE."  
OFFICIALS AND OBSERVERS HERE CHECKED BACK THROUGH THE VOLUMES OF  
GOUZENKO'S PUBLISHED TESTIMONY BEFORE A ROYAL COMMISSION AND OTHER  
AGENCIES FOR NEW CLUES TO THE SPREAD OF THE COMMUNIST SPY NETWORK  
HE FIRST REVEALED.

DISCLOSURES IN LONDON OF THE LONG ASSOCIATION OF THE TWO BRITISH  
DIPLOMATS WITH COMMUNIST SPY ACTIVITIES RECALLED GOUZENKO'S  
TESTIMONY BEFORE TWO UNITED STATES SENATORS, SEN. WILLIAM JENNER  
AND THE LATE SEN. PAT McCARRAN, AT A SECRET MEETING NEAR MONTREAL  
IN 1954.

GOUZENKO'S ORIGINAL DISCLOSURES LED TO THE ARREST AND CONVICTION  
OF DR. ALLAN NUNN MAY, BRITISH SCIENTIST, FOR GIVING AWAY ATOMIC  
SECRETS. SOME 19 OTHERS, INCLUDING FRED ROSE, FORMER MEMBER OF THE  
CANADIAN PARLIAMENT, WERE ARRESTED IN CANADA AND A NUMBER OF THEM  
CONVICTED. FROM GOUZENKO'S TESTIMONY THE TRIAL LED TO DR. KLAUS  
FUCHS AND TO JULIUS AND ETHEL ROSENBERG, THE TWO PERSONS EXECUTED  
AS SPIES BY THE UNITED STATES.

BUT IT WAS NOT UNTIL LAST YEAR THAT IT WAS LEARNED GOUZENKO HAD  
ALSO TOLD AUTHORITIES HE KNEW OF AN IMPORTANT SPY IN ANOTHER WESTERN  
CAPITAL.

THE TRANSCRIPT OF HIS TESTIMONY BEFORE McCARRAN AND JENNER WAS  
PUBLISHED BY THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT IN APRIL, 1954.  
SOME 34 WORDS WERE CENSORED FOR REASONS OF "INTERNATIONAL PROPRIETY"  
BY THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT. THE DELETED WORDS--CONTAINED A COVER NAME  
AND THE NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION IN WHICH THE SPY WORKED.  
BECAUSE OF HIS EARLIER REFERENCE TO THE BRITISH, IT WAS ASSUMED  
HERE THAT GOUZENKO HAD DISCLOSED THE PRESENCE OF AT LEAST ONE COMMUNIST  
SPY, AND POSSIBLY TWO, IN LONDON.

9/24--PA1153A

109

Burgess was a close friend of Maclean and was reported to be a Soviet agent. Recent publicity regarding Maclean and Burgess has resulted from the disclosure in the press of an allegation by Vladimir Petrov, a Soviet MGB agent who defected in Australia in April, 1954. According to Petrov, Maclean and Burgess were long-term Soviet agents now residing near Moscow and acting as advisors to the Soviet Foreign Office on Anglo-American affairs.

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

**TO :** The Director

**DATE:** September 27,  
1955

**FROM :** L. V. Boardman

**SUBJECT:** DONALD DUART MACLEAN;  
GUY FRANCIS DE MONCY BURGESS  
ESPIONAGE - R

## SYNOPSIS:

This is in answer to your inquiry regarding a Washington City News release dated 9-24-55 speculating that investigation of subjects Maclean and Burgess was based on information furnished by the Soviet defector Igor Gouzenko. Bufiles reflect such speculation is unfounded. Gouzenko has not furnished information regarding subjects. British spy mentioned by Gouzenko during 1954 interview with Senators Jenner and McCarran apparently not identical with either subject.

Recent publicity regarding the former British diplomats Maclean and Burgess has resulted from published disclosure of the Soviet defector Vladimir Petrov that Maclean and Burgess were long-term Soviet agents now residing near Moscow.

## RECOMMENDATION:

None. This is for your information.

## DETAILS:

This memorandum answers your inquiry concerning a Washington City News Service release bearing the date line 9-24-55, Ottawa, (Canada), which reports that Igor Gouzenko,

Memorandum to The Director [REDACTED]

former cypher clerk in the Soviet Embassy at Ottawa, may have pointed the first finger of suspicion at British diplomats Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean ten years ago. The release indicates the basis for this speculation to be the transcript of Gouzenko's testimony before McCarran and Jenner published in 1954 from which 34 words were censored for reasons of "international propriety" by the Canadian Government. The article indicates that among the deleted words was a cover name as well as the name of the organization in which the spy worked, and because of an earlier reference to the British it was assumed Gouzenko had disclosed the presence of at least one Communist spy, and possibly two, in London. You noted on the above news release, "What about this angle? H." (b7c)

Bufiles reflect the above speculation to the effect that the Soviet defector Gouzenko furnished the information on which the investigation of Maclean and Burgess was based is erroneous. Gouzenko has never furnished information concerning either Maclean or Burgess. (b7c)

Igor Gouzenko was interviewed in the presence of Canadian officials by Senators William E. Jenner and Pat McCarran in Canada on 1-4-54 as members of the Internal Security Subcommittee of the Committee on the Judiciary of the U.S. Senate. No mention was made of Maclean and Burgess during that interview. The original transcript of that interview [REDACTED] contains 34 words which were deleted from the record of the interview as published by the Internal Security Subcommittee [REDACTED]. The reference to a spy in London mentioned by Gouzenko, whose cover name had been deleted as well as the name of the organization for which he worked, is dealt with on page 50 of the interview as published by the Senate and on pages 97 and 98 of the original transcript.

(BURGESS-MACLEAN)

LONDON--THE GOVERNMENT PROMISED A "FULL STATEMENT" TODAY ON THE CASE OF THE TWO MISSING DIPLOMATS IT ADMITTED WERE KNOWN COMMUNIST SPIES BEFORE THEY SLIPPED BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN FOUR YEARS AGO.

A "WHITE PAPER" ON DONALD MACLEAN AND GUY BURGESS IS SCHEDULED TO BE ISSUED TODAY (NO TIME YET ANNOUNCED) AMID AN INCREASING STORM OF CRITICISM OVER ALLEGED GOVERNMENT ATTEMPTS TO SIDETRACK THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE HANDLING OF THE CASE.

BUT FOREIGN SECRETARY HAROLD MACMILLAN CAME OUT OPENLY IN DEFENSE OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE YESTERDAY. HE STATED THAT WHATEVER HAPPENED WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MINISTERS AND NOT OF GOVERNMENT WORKERS.

IN SHIFTING THE RESPONSIBILITY TO THE MINISTERS, THE CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT WAS LAYING AT LEAST PART OF THE BLAME ON THE DOORSTEP OF THE FORMER LABOR GOVERNMENT OF CLEMENT R. ATTLEE.

9/23--GE937A

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Boardman [REDACTED]

DATE: Sept. 23, 1955 ✓✓

FROM : Mr. Belmont [REDACTED]

SUBJECT:

DONALD DUART MAC LEAN; GUY F.  
BURGESS; ESPIONAGE - R ✓✓

There is attached hereto a copy of the "White  
Paper" which was delivered this afternoon. [REDACTED]

We have previously asked [REDACTED] to keep the  
Bureau advised of the official British position in this matter  
and he will undoubtedly be sending another copy. [REDACTED]

ACTION:

We will immediately review this paper for any items  
of interest to the Bureau.

64815

[REDACTED]

Report concerning the disappearance  
of two former Foreign Office officials.

On the evening of Friday, May 25, 1951, Mr. Donald Duart Maclean, a Counsellor in the Senior Branch of the Foreign Service and at that time head of the American Department in the Foreign Office, and Mr. Guy Francis de Moncy Burgess, a Second Secretary in the Junior Branch of the Foreign Service, left the United Kingdom from Southampton on the boat for St. Malo. The circumstances of their departure from England, for which they had not sought sanction, were such as to make it obvious that they had deliberately fled the country. Both officers were suspended from duty on June 1, 1951 and their appointment in the Foreign Office was terminated on June 1, 1952, with effect from June 1, 1951.

2. Maclean was the son of a former Cabinet Minister, Sir Donald Maclean. He was born in 1913 and was educated at Gresham's School, Holt, and Trinity College, Cambridge, where he had a distinguished academic record. He successfully competed for the diplomatic service in 1935 and was posted in the first instance to the Foreign Office. He served subsequently in Paris, at Washington and in Cairo. He was an officer of exceptional ability and was promoted to the rank of Counsellor at the early age of 35. He was married to an American lady and had two young sons. A third child was born shortly after his disappearance.

3. In May 1950 while serving at Her Majesty's Embassy, Cairo, Maclean was guilty of serious misconduct and suffered a form of breakdown which was attributed to overwork and excessive drinking. Until the breakdown took place his work had remained eminently satisfactory and there was no ground whatsoever for doubting his loyalty. After recuperation and leave at home he was passed medically fit, and in

/ October 1950

JAN 11 1972  
XEROXED ORIGINAL RETURN

115 [REDACTED]

ENCLOSURE

[REDACTED] 61850

October 1950 was appointed to be head of the American Department of the Foreign Office which, since it does not deal with the major problems of Anglo-American relations, appeared to be within his capacity.

4. Since Maclean's disappearance a close examination of his background has revealed that during his student days at Cambridge from 1931 to 1934 he had expressed Communist sympathies, but there was no evidence that he had ever been a member of the Communist party and indeed on leaving the university he had outwardly renounced his earlier Communist views.

5. Burgess was born in 1911 and was educated at the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, at Eton and at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he had a brilliant academic record. After leaving Cambridge in 1935 he worked for a short time in London as a journalist and joined the B.B.C. in 1936 where he remained until January 1939. From 1939 until 1941 he was employed in one of the war propaganda organisations. He rejoined the B.B.C. in January 1941 and remained there until 1944 when he applied for and obtained a post as a temporary press officer in the News Department of the Foreign Office. He was not recruited into the Foreign Service through the open competitive examination but in 1947 took the opportunity open to temporary employees to present himself for establishment. He appeared before a Civil Service Commission Board and was recommended for a junior Branch of the Foreign Service. His establishment took effect from January 1, 1947. He worked for a time in the office of the then Minister of State, Mr. Hector McNeil, and in the Far Eastern Department of the Foreign Office. In August 1950 he was transferred to Washington as a Second Secretary.

6. Early in 1950 the security authorities informed the Foreign Office that in late 1949 while on holiday abroad Burgess had been guilty of indiscreet talk about secret matters of which he had official knowledge. For this he was severely reprimanded. Apart from this lapse his service in the Foreign Office up to the time of his appointment to Washington was satisfactory and there seemed good reason to hope that he would make a useful career.

7. In Washington, however, his work and behaviour gave rise to complaint. The Ambassador reported that his work had been unsatisfactory in that he lacked thoroughness and balance in routine matters, that he had come to the unfavourable notice of the Department of State because of his reckless driving and that he had had to be reprimanded for carelessness in leaving confidential papers unattended. The Ambassador requested that Burgess be removed from Washington and this was approved. He was recalled to London in early May 1951 and was asked to resign from the Foreign Service. Consideration was being given to the steps that would be taken in the event of his refusing to do so. It was at this point that he disappeared.

8. Investigations into Burgess' past have since shown that he like Maclean, went through a period of Communist leanings while at Cambridge and that he too on leaving the university outwardly renounced his views. No trace can be found in his subsequent career of direct participation in the activities of left-wing organisations; indeed he was known after leaving Cambridge to have had some contact with organisations such as the Anglo-German Club.

[REDACTED]

9. The question has been asked whether the association of these two officers with each other did not give rise to suspicion. The fact is that although we have since learned that Maclean and Burgess were acquainted during the undergraduate days at Cambridge, they gave no evidence during the course of the career in the Foreign Service of any association other than would be normal between two colleagues. When Burgess was appointed to the Foreign Office, Maclean was in Washington and at the time Burgess himself was appointed to Washington, Maclean was back in the United Kingdom awaiting assignment to the American Department of the Foreign Office. It is now clear that they were in communication with each other after the return of Burgess from Washington in 1951 and they may have been in such communication earlier. Their relations were, however, never such as to cause remark.

10. In January 1949, the security authorities received a report that certain Foreign Office information had leaked to the Soviet authorities some years earlier. The report amounted to little more than a hint and it was at the time impossible to attribute the leak to any particular individual. Highly secret but widespread and protracted enquiries were begun by the security authorities and the field of suspicion had been narrowed by mid-April 1951 to two or three persons. By the beginning of May, Maclean had come to be regarded as the principal suspect. There was, however, even at that time, no legally admissible evidence to support a prosecution under the Official Secrets Acts. Arrangements were made to ensure that information of exceptional secrecy and importance should not come into his hands. In the meantime, the security authorities arranged to investigate his activities and contacts in order to increase their background knowledge and if possible to obtain information which could be used as evidence in a prosecution. On May 25 the then Secretary of State, Mr. Herbert Morrison, sanctioned a proposal that the security authorities should question Maclean. In reaching this decision it had to be borne in mind that such questioning might produce no confession or voluntary statement from Maclean sufficient to support a prosecution, but might serve only to alert him and to reveal the nature and the extent of the suspicion against him. In that event he would have been free to make arrangements to leave the country and the authorities would have had no legal power to stop him. Everything therefore depended on the interview and the security authorities were anxious to be as fully prepared as was humanly possible. They were also anxious that Maclean's house at Tatsfield, Kent, should be searched and this was an additional reason for delaying the proposed interview until mid-June when Mrs. Maclean who was then pregnant was expected to be away from home.

11. It is now clear that in spite of the precautions taken by the authorities, Maclean must have become aware, at some time before his disappearance, that he was under investigation. One explanation may be that he observed that he was no longer receiving certain types of secret papers. It is also possible that he detected that he was under observation. Or he may have been warned. Searching enquiries involving individual interrogations were made into this last possibility. Insufficient evidence was obtainable to form a definite conclusion or to warrant prosecution.

12. Maclean's absence did not become known to the authorities until the morning of Monday, May 28. The Foreign Office is regularly open for normal business on Saturday mornings, but officers can, from time to time, obtain leave to take a week-end off. In accordance with this practice Maclean applied for an obtained leave to be absent on the morning of Saturday, May 26. His absence therefore caused no remark until the following Monday morning when he failed to appear at the Foreign Office. Burgess was on leave and under no obligation to report his movements.

13. Immediately the flight was known all possible action was taken in the United Kingdom, and the French and other continental security authorities were asked to trace the whereabouts of the fugitives and if possible to intercept them. All British Consulates in Western Europe were alerted and special efforts were made to discover whether the fugitives had crossed the French frontiers on May 26 or 27. As a result of these and other enquiries it was established that Maclean and Burgess together left Tatsfield by car for Southampton in the late evening of Friday, May 25, arrived at Southampton at midnight, caught the s.s. Falaise for St. Malo and disembarked at that port at 11.45 the following morning, leaving suitcases and some of their clothing on board. They were not seen on the train from St. Malo to Paris and it has been reported that two men, believed to be Maclean and Burgess, took a taxi to Rennes and there got the 1.18 p.m. train to Paris. Nothing more was seen of them.

14. Since the disappearance various communications have been received from them by members of their families. On June 7, 1951 telegrams ostensibly from Maclean were received by his Mother Lady Maclean, and his wife Mrs. Melinda Maclean, who were both at that time in the United Kingdom. The telegram to Lady Maclean was a short personal message, signed by a nick-name known only within the immediate family circle. It merely stated that all was well. That addressed to Mrs. Maclean was similar, expressing regret for the unexpected departure and was signed "Donald". Both telegrams were despatched in Paris on the evening of June 6. Their receipt was at once reported to the security authorities, but it was impossible to identify the person or persons who had handed them in. The original telegraph forms showed, however, that the messages had been written in a hand which was clearly not Maclean's. The character of the hand-writing, and some mis-spelling, suggested that both telegrams had been written by a foreigner.

15. On June 7, 1951, a telegram was received in London by Mrs. Bassett, Burgess' Mother. It contained a short and affectionate personal message, together with a statement that the sender was embarking on a long Mediterranean holiday and was ostensibly from Burgess himself. The telegram had been handed in at a Post Office in Rome earlier on the day of its receipt. As with the telegrams from Paris to Maclean's family, there was no possibility of identifying the person who had handed it in. The handwriting had the appearance of being foreign and was certainly not that of Burgess.

16. According to information given to the Foreign Office in confidence by Mrs. Dunbar, Maclean's Mother-in-law, who was then living with her daughter at Tatsfield, she received on August 3, 1951, two registered letters posted in St. Gallen, Switzerland, on August 1. One contained a draft on the Swiss Bank Corporation London for the sum of £1,000 payable to Mrs. Dunbar; the other / a draft

a draft payable to Mrs. Dunbar for the same sum, drawn by the Union Bank of Switzerland on the Midland Bank, 122 Old Broad Street, London. Both drafts were stated to have been remitted by order of Mr. Robert Becker, whose address was given as the Hotel Central, Zurich. Exhaustive enquiries in collaboration with the Swiss authorities have not led to the identification of Mr. Becker and it is probable that the name given was false.

17. Shortly after the receipt of these bank drafts Mrs. Maclean received a letter in her husband's handwriting. It had been posted in Reigate, Surrey on August 5, 1951 and was of an affectionate, personal nature as from husband to wife. It gave no clue as to Maclean's whereabouts or the reason for his disappearance but it explained that the bank drafts, which for convenience had been sent to Mrs. Dunbar, were intended for Mrs. Maclean.

18. Lady Maclean received a further letter from her son on August 15, 1951. There is no doubt that it was in his own handwriting. It had been posted at Herne Hill on August 11.

19. Mrs. Bassett, the mother of Burgess, received a letter in Burgess' handwriting on December 22, 1953. The letter was personal and gave no information as to Burgess' whereabouts. It was simply dated "November" and had been posted in South East London on December 21. The last message received from either of the two men was a further letter from Burgess to his mother which was delivered in London on December 25, 1954. This letter was also personal and disclosed nothing of Burgess' whereabouts. It too was simply dated "November". It had been posted in Poplar E. 14 on December 23.

20. On September 11, 1953 Mrs. Maclean, who was living in Geneva, left there by car with her three children. She had told her mother who was staying with her, that she had unexpectedly come across an acquaintance who she and her husband had previously known in Cairo, and that he had invited her and the children to spend the weekend with him at Territet, near Montreux. She stated that she would return to Geneva on September 13 in time for the two elder children to attend school the following day. By September 14 her mother alarmed at her failure to return, reported the letter to Her Majesty's Consul General in Geneva and also by telephone to London. Security Officers were at once despatched to Geneva where they placed themselves at the disposal of the Swiss police who were already making intensive enquiries. On the afternoon of September 16 Mrs. Maclean's car was found in a garage in Lausanne. She had left it on the afternoon of the 11th saying she would return for it in a week. The garage hand who reported this added that Mrs. Maclean had then proceeded with her children to the Lausanne railway station. On the same day, September 16, Mrs. Dunbar reported to the Geneva police the receipt of a telegram purporting to come from her daughter. The telegram explained that Mrs. Maclean had been delayed "owing to unforeseen circumstances" and asked Mrs. Dunbar to inform the school authorities that the two older children would be returning in a week. Mrs. Maclean's youngest child was referred to in this telegram by a name known only to Mrs. Maclean, her Mother and other intimates. The telegram had been handed in at a post office in Territet at 10.58 that morning by a woman whose description did not agree with that of Mrs. Maclean. The handwriting on the telegram for was not Mrs. Maclean's and it showed foreign characteristics similar to those in the telegrams received in 1951 by Lady Maclean, Mrs. Maclean and Mrs. Bassett.

/21. From

[REDACTED]

21. From information subsequently received from witnesses in Switzerland and Austria, it seems clear that the arrangements for Mrs. Maclean's departure from Geneva had been carefully planned and that she proceeded by train from Lausanne on the evening of September 11, passing the Swiss-Austrian frontier that night and arriving at Schwerzach St. Veit in the American Zone of Austria at approximately 9.15 on the morning of September 12. The independent evidence of a porter at Schwerzach St. Veit and of witnesses travelling in the train, has established she left the train at this point. Further evidence believed to be reliable, shows that she was met at the station by an unknown man driving a car bearing Austrian number plates. The further movements of this car have not been traced. It is probable that it took Mrs. Maclean and the children from Schwerzach St. Veit to neighbouring territory in Russian occupation whence she proceeded on her journey to join her husband.

22. There was no question of preventing Mrs. Maclean from leaving the United Kingdom to go to live in Switzerland. Although she was under no obligation to report her movements, she had been regularly in touch with the security authorities and had informed them that she wished to make her home in Switzerland. She gave two good reasons, firstly that she wished to avoid the personal embarrassment to which she had been subjected by the press in the United Kingdom and secondly, that she wished to educate her children in the International School in Geneva. It will be remembered that Mrs. Maclean was an American citizen and in view of the publicity caused by her husband's flight it was only natural that she should wish to bring up her children in new surroundings. Before she left for Geneva the security authorities made arrangements with her whereby she was to keep in touch with the British authorities in Berne and Geneva in case she should receive any further news from her husband or require advice or assistance. Mrs. Maclean was a free agent. The authorities had no legal means of detaining her in the United Kingdom. Any form of surveillance abroad would have been unwarranted.

23. In view of the suspicions held against Maclean and of the conspiratorial manner of his flight, it was assumed, though it could not be proved, that his destination and that of his companion must have been the Soviet Union or some other territory behind the Iron Curtain. Now Vladimir Petrov, the former Third Secretary of the Soviet Embassy in Canberra, who sought political asylum on April 3, 1954, has provided confirmation of this. Petrov himself was not directly concerned in the case and his information was obtained from conversation with one of his colleagues in the Soviet service in Australia. Petrov states that both Maclean and Burgess were recruited as spies for the Soviet Government while students at the University, with the intention that they should carry out their espionage tasks in the Foreign Office and that in 1951, by means unknown to him, one or other of the men became aware that their activities were under investigation. This was reported by them to the Soviet Intelligence Service who then organised their escape and removal to the Soviet Union. Petrov has the impression that the escape route included Czechoslovakia and that it involved an acroplane flight into that country. Upon their arrival in Russia, Maclean and Burgess lived near Moscow. They were used as advisers to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other Soviet agencies. Petrov adds that one of the men (Maclean) has since been joined by his wife.

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24. The points call for comment: first, how Maclean and Burgess remained in the Foreign Service for so long and second, why they were able to get away.

25. When these two men were given their appointments nothing was on record about either to show that he was unsuitable for the Public Service. It is true that their subsequent personal behaviour was unsatisfactory and this led to action in each case. As already stated Maclean was recalled from Cairo in 1950 and was not re-employed until he was declared medically fit. Burgess was recalled from Washington in 1951 and was asked to resign. It was only shortly before Maclean disappeared that serious suspicion of his reliability was aroused and active enquiries were set on foot.

26. The second question is how Maclean and Burgess made good their escape from this country when the security authorities were on their track. The watch on Maclean was made difficult by the need to ensure that he did not become aware that he was under observation. This watch was primarily aimed at collecting, if possible, further information and not at preventing an escape. In imposing it, a calculated risk had to be taken that he might become aware of it and might take flight. It was advisable to increase this risk by extending the surveillance to his home in an isolated part of the country and he was therefore watched in London only. Both men were free to go abroad at any time. In some countries no doubt Maclean would have been arrested first and questioned afterwards. In this country no arrest can be made without adequate evidence. At the time there was insufficient evidence. It was for these reasons necessary for the security authorities to embark upon the difficult and delicate investigation of Maclean, taking into full account the risk that he would be alerted. In the event he was alerted and fled the country together with Burgess.

27. As a result of this case, in July 1951, the then Secretary of State, Mr. Herbert Morrison, set up a Committee of Enquiry to consider the Security checks applied to members of the Foreign Service; the existing regulations and practices of the Foreign Service in regard to any matters having a bearing on security and to report whether any alterations were called for. The Committee reported in November 1951. It recommended among other things, a more extensive security check on Foreign Service officers than had until then been the practice. This was immediately put into effect and since 1952 searching enquiries had been made into the backgrounds and associates of all those occupying or applying for positions in the Foreign Office involving highly secret information. The purpose of these enquiries is to ensure that no one is appointed to or continues to occupy any such post unless he or she is fit to be entrusted with the secrets to which the post gives access. The Foreign Secretary of the day approved the action required.

28. A great deal of criticism has been directed towards the reticence of Ministerial replies on these matters; an attitude which it was alleged would not have been changed had it not been for the Petrov revelations. Espionage is carried out in secret. Counter-espionage equally depends for its success upon the maximum secrecy of its methods. Nor is it desirable at any moment to let the other side know how much has been discovered or guess at what means have been used to discover it. Nor should they be allowed to know all the steps that have been taken to improve security. These considerations still apply and must be the basic criterion for judging what should or should not be published.

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# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : L. V. Boardman [REDACTED]

DATE: 9-26-55

FROM : A. H. Belmont

SUBJECT: DONALD DUART MACLEAN;  
GUY FRANCIS BURGESS  
ESPIONAGE - R

Enclosed herewith is a copy of the British "White Paper" concerning captioned case, issued September 23, 1955. This paper was submitted to the Director September 23, 1955, with a memorandum stating it would be reviewed for any items of interest to the Bureau. The Director requested this review be done expeditiously. This "White Paper" has been reviewed and found to contain no reference to the Bureau or investigation conducted by the FBI in this country. Generally, it contains the family and educational background of the subjects, together with their employment history and circumstances relating to their disappearance.

It is pointed out that in 1949 information was received indicating that Foreign Office information had been leaked to the Russians some years earlier [REDACTED]. Investigation, by May, 1951, indicated Maclean to be the principal suspect, although insufficient evidence had been obtained to permit his arrest. On Friday, May 25, 1951, [REDACTED] authorized interview of Maclean; however, Maclean was on leave on Saturday, May 26, 1951, and the Foreign Office was not aware of his disappearance until Monday, May 28, 1951. Steps taken to locate Maclean and Burgess are then listed and correspondence received by their relatives subsequent to their departure.

The conclusion is set forth in the paper that Maclean became aware that he was under investigation. This was accomplished either through a warning or through his own deduction when certain secret papers were withheld from him. It is further assumed that due to the circumstances of their disappearance from England, the subjects are in Russia or other territories behind the Iron Curtain. Vladimir Petrov's (Soviet defector) allegation that Maclean and Burgess were long-term Soviet agents is set forth.

The paper then points out that two points call for comment:  
 (1) How did Maclean and Burgess remain in the Foreign Service for so long? (2) Why were they able to get away? With regard to No. 1,

Memorandum for L. V. Boardman [REDACTED]

it is stated that at the time of their appointments, nothing was on record to show either man was unsuitable for public service. Although their subsequent personal behavior was unsatisfactory and resulted in action in each case - Burgess was asked to resign in 1951 - Maclean did not come under serious suspicion until shortly before he disappeared.

In answer to No. 2, it is stated the surveillance of Maclean was primarily aimed at collecting information, not preventing his escape. The surveillance was limited to London as Maclean lived in an isolated section and would probably have become aware of it.

It is also pointed out as a result of this case investigations were instituted of all those holding or applying for positions in the Foreign Office involving highly secret information.

Regarding the criticism levelled by the British Press that the Government withheld information concerning the case, the answer is given that espionage is carried out in secret and counterespionage also depends on secrecy for its success.

The "White Paper" declares that by mid-April, 1951, the search for the individual responsible for the leak of Foreign Office information had narrowed to two or three persons and by the beginning of May, 1951, Maclean had come to be regarded as the principal suspect.

[REDACTED] It is further reported that Guy Burgess from 1939-1941 was employed in one of the war propaganda organizations. [REDACTED] Other than the two cited instances, the facts reported in the paper agree with those contained in our files.

ACTION:

None. For your information.

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URGENT

DONALD DUART MACLEAN, ET AL, ESPIONAGE-R. REMYCABLE SEPTEMBER 22 LAST. TODAY'S PRESS REPORTED BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY REPLIED TO A QUESTION ASKED AT A LONDON LUNCHEON YESTERDAY THAT HE IS THE RESPONSIBLE PERSON IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE, AND NO DOUBT SHOULD BE BLAMED THIS AFFAIR. EULOGIZED BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE AND SAID THAT IF THERE ARE MISTAKES, THEY ARE THE MISTAKES OF MINISTER. DAILY SKETCH EDITORIALIZED THAT FOREIGN SECRETARY'S CHIVALROUS GESTURE IS FUTILE BECAUSE HE WAS NOT IN FOREIGN OFFICE OR ANY PUBLIC POST DURING SUBJECTS' DISAPPEARANCE AND SUSPICIONED THAT WHITE PAPER, DUE TO BE PUBLISHED TODAY, WILL NOT ANSWER QUESTION AS TO WHY SUBJECTS WERE PROTECTED FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR OWN FOLLY AND ALLOWED TO BREW THEIR TREASON UNDER PROTECTION OF IMPORTANT PEOPLE.

[REDACTED] BUREAU WILL BE IMMEDIATELY INFORMED OF ANY PERTINENT DEVELOPMENTS.

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URGENT

MACLEAN CASE. BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT IT WILL PUBLISH A WHITE PAPER IN FOUR OR FIVE DAYS ON THE MACLEAN AND BURGESS CASE. ALSO STATED THAT IT WAS PRESUMED FOREIGN OFFICE DOCUMENTS WERE PASSED BY MACLEAN TO RUSSIA BUT QUANTITY AND CONTENTS UNKNOWN. BUREAU WILL BE KEPT INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS.

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URGENT

DONALD DUART MACLEAN, ET AL, ESPIONAGE-R. REMYCABLES SEPTEMBER 19 LAST RE INSTANT CASE AND MATTER ENTITLED [REDACTED], WITH ALIASES, ESPIONAGE-R. TODAY'S NEWSPAPERS ALL ATTACKED BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE FOR THE LONG DELAY IN ADMITTING THAT BOTH SUBJECTS WERE LONG TERM RUSSIAN AGENTS. ACCUSED FOREIGN OFFICE OF DELIBERATELY MISLEADING MINISTERS AND DECEIVING PUBLIC FOR FOUR YEARS IN ORDER TO PREVENT SCANDAL IN THAT DEPARTMENT. INDICATED THAT IF PETROV HAD NOT TALKED, THE TRUTH WOULD STILL BE SUPPRESSED AND THAT IT WAS ONLY AFTER IT WAS SEEN WHAT INTEREST PETROV'S ARTICLE AROUSED IN THE PRESS THAT DECISION TO PUBLISH WHITE PAPER WAS TAKEN. ALSO CRITICISED OFFICIALS FOR ALLOWING SUBJECTS TO CONTINUE WORKING IN FOREIGN OFFICE AFTER THEY WERE SUSPECTED OF SPYING, AND MENTIONED THAT NOW ONLY NEED FIND MICROFILM IN PUMPKIN TO PARALLEL HISS CASE. LIKELY TO BE DEMAND FOR DEBATE WHEN PARLIAMENT REASSEMBLES OCTOBER 25 NEXT. QUESTION ALREADY PUT TO PRIME MINISTER ASKING THAT COMMITTEE BE APPOINTED TO INVESTIGATE THEIR DISAPPEARANCE AND GENERAL EFFICIENCY OF CIVIL SERVICE SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS.

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Messrs. Tolson, Boardman, Nichols

September 29, 1955

[redacted] stated he had heard that [redacted] had come over here and taken Philby back with him to London. I told him I did not recall this exactly, but that if [redacted] did not personally come, a representative of his organization did come to this country and accompany Philby back when he was recalled; that the British Government had indicated at the time that Philby had compromised his relations with the United States Government by being tied up with Burgess.

I suggested to [redacted] that his friend in Europe might want to check with the British on this matter since the White Paper did not reveal the identity of the third man involved. [redacted] said he had checked in Washington but Philby's name had not been listed in the 1951 books of British Embassy personnel. He stated that he was reluctant to contact the British Embassy here, as he did not want to tip the story, and added that if Philby were connected with intelligence work when assigned here, it was entirely possible that his name might not be on file with the State Department.

[redacted] expressed his appreciation and I advised him that if I could be of any further assistance, he shoul'd contact me.

Very truly yours,

J.S.C.H.

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

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3:54 PM

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON  
MR. BOARDMAN  
MR. NICHOLS

[REDACTED] of the International News Service, called this afternoon.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] has been contacted by an individual who claims to know the identity of a third man involved in the Burgess-MacLean case and to have the full story. According to [REDACTED] the name of this third party is a British subject named Philby, who was formerly connected with the British Government in this country.

I advised [REDACTED] that he apparently was on the trail of some very hot information but cautioned him that in the White Paper which had just been released by the British Government there was no mention of Philby's name, apparently because of lack of direct proof against Philby and the fact that Philby was in contact with lawyers and threatening heavy libel suits if any paper prints his name in connection with this matter. I told [REDACTED] that he should caution his friend regarding the possibility of libel action unless he can get a release on the whole story because otherwise he can become involved in legal difficulties. I also mentioned that I believed Philby's name was known to one or two newspapers in London but they have been reluctant to use it because of lack of direct proof.

I gave [REDACTED] the brief background on Philby to the effect that he had been living with Burgess while employed with British Intelligence in Washington, was a heavy drinker and because of his close association with Burgess was suspected of having tipped off Burgess to the investigation being conducted; that if Philby had not actually done so, he was at least in the position of having access to this and other highly confidential information.

DONALD DUART MACLEAN, ET AL, ESPIONAGE-R, REMYCABLES SEPTEMBER 19  
AND 20 LAST. [REDACTED] CONFIDENTIALLY

| INFORMS THAT WHITE PAPER BEING SUBMITTED TO CABINET TODAY FOR  
FINAL APPROVAL. THIS PAPER WAS PREPARED BY BRITISH SECURITY  
SERVICE (MI-5) AND CONTAINS SUMMARY OF PETROV DISCLOSURE, BACK-  
GROUND INFORMATION RE SUBJECTS AND COMPLETE SUMMARY OF ALL  
DEVELOPMENTS INSTANT CASE. BRIEFLY, IT MENTIONS THAT INFORMATION  
RE FURNISHING FOREIGN OFFICE DOCUMENTS TO RUSSIANS BY UNKNOWN  
SUBJECTS FIRST RECEIVED FROM CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE IN 1949; THAT  
INVESTIGATION WAS INSTITUTED AND IDENTITY OF SUBJECTS ESTABLISHED  
IN 1951; THAT THEY WERE BEING THEREAFTER PLACED UNDER OBSERVATION  
AND, PENDING COMPLETION OF OUTSTANDING INQUIRIES WITH PROSECUTION  
IN VIEW, IT WAS PLANNED TO INTERVIEW THEM IN JUNE, 1951; THAT  
PASSPORTS NOT TAKEN UP AND PERMITTED TO CONTINUE WORKING IN  
FOREIGN OFFICE, IN ORDER NOT TO AROUSE THEIR SUSPICIONS RE  
OBSERVATION AND INVESTIGATION OR ELIMINATE THE ELEMENT OF  
SURPRISE WHEN FINALLY INTERVIEWED. RE THEIR DISAPPEARANCE IN  
APRIL, 1951, PAPER STATES MACLEAN MAY HAVE BECOME AWARE OF  
SURVEILLANCE AS HE LIVED IN ISOLATED AREA HARD TO COVER; THAT  
HE MAY HAVE BECOME SUSPICIOUS BECAUSE HE NO LONGER HAD ACCESS  
TO SECRET FOREIGN OFFICE DOCUMENTS, OR THAT THEY WERE ALERTED  
BY UNKNOWN SOURCE THAT THEY WERE UNDER INVESTIGATION. APART  
FROM THIS LATTER SUGGESTION, NO MENTION BEING MADE OF PHILBY  
ASPECTS THIS CASE. INFORMATION RE SUBJECTS, IMMEDIATE RELATIVES  
AND THEIR CONNECTION WITH THIS CASE ALSO BEING MENTIONED. THIS  
WHITE PAPER MAY OR MAY NOT BE APPROVED BY CABINET OR IT MAY BE  
ALTERED. [REDACTED]

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : L. V. Boardman

FROM : A. H. Belmont

DATE: September 21,  
1955

SUBJECT: DONALD DUART MACLEAN; -  
GUY FRANCIS DE MONCY BURGESS  
ESPIONAGE - R

Attached is news article carrying the date line  
London, September 21, which appeared in "Washington Star" of  
9-21-55, referring to the Burgess-Maclean case, the two diplomats  
who disappeared from England in 1951. This article states:

"The Daily Express said the two men fled from  
England in 1951 after they received a warning from 'a British  
official in Washington,' described by the paper as 'a Russian  
spy.' 'In his official capacity he received information that  
British security men were after the two diplomats,' the Express  
declared. 'In his unofficial capacity - as a Russian spy - he  
passed on the information to a Soviet contact in Washington,'  
who in turn warned Burgess and Maclean. 'Who in fact is that  
third man who gave the tipoff?' the Express asked."

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That attached cable to the Legal Attaché, London, be approved instructing him to continue to keep Bureau advised of all pertinent developments in this case, including official British reaction and information on the whereabouts and activities of Kim Philby.
2. We are preparing a detailed memorandum reflecting in a more comprehensive fashion the facts relating to Burgess and Maclean, along with their association with Philby.

# Eden and Cabinet Meet To Approve Spy Report

LONDON, Sept 21 (P).—Prime Minister Eden met with his cabinet today to put final approval on a government report on the Burgess - MacLean "runaway spies" case.

Sir Anthony, fully recovered from a recent attack of influenza, drove to London from his country home to preside.

The cabinet met in the midst of the most serious newspaper attacks made on the Foreign Office in recent years for its handling of the case of Donald MacLean and Guy Burgess, British diplomats who fled to the Communist East in 1951 after serving as longtime Russian spies.

For four years the Foreign Office, under both Labor and Conservative governments, maintained tight secrecy over details of the men's defection. This was broken last week end when former Russian spy Vladimir Petrov disclosed they had been Soviet agents for 20 years.

#### Disclosure Confirmed

The Foreign Office then confirmed Petrov's disclosures and said Burgess and MacLean were under investigation when they fled.

Spurred by angry newspaper criticism, the government promised an official white paper Friday giving full details of the case.

Meanwhile, British newspapers continued to lash the Foreign Office.

The Daily Express said the two men fled from England in 1951 after they received a warning from "a British official in Washington," described by the paper as "a Russian spy."

"In his official capacity he received information that British security men were after the two diplomats," the Express declared. "In his unofficial capacity—as a Russian spy—he passed on the information to a Soviet contact in Washington," who in turn warned Burgess and MacLean.

"Who in fact is that third man who gave the tipoff?" the Express asked.

#### Had Defense Secrets

Both Burgess and MacLean had access to allied secrets at a time when the whole Western defense setup was in its formative stage.

According to Foreign Office spokesman, secret documents of importance were withheld from MacLean beginning in April, 1951.

A man accustomed to reading top secret papers could guess that the flow to him was thinning and that this could mean that he was being watched. In such circumstances it would have been easy for MacLean to pass the word to Burgess.

Wash. Post and  
Times Herald

Wash. News

Wash. Star

N. Y. Herald Tribune

N. Y. Mirror

2-13

Date: 9-21-55

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