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1714(73) 1st Meeting

RECORD of a Meeting held in  
Conference Room E, Cabinet Office on  
MONDAY 17 DECEMBER 1973 at 4.30 pm

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PRESENT

Sir Patrick Dean (In the Chair)

Mr W R Haydon  
Prime Minister's Office

Mr G F N Reddaway  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Mr J H Waddell  
Home Office

Mr J L Jones  
Security Service

THE FOLLOWING WERE ALSO PRESENT

Mr R T Armstrong  
Prime Minister's Office  
(Item 1)

Mr C F Heron  
Department of Employment

Sir John Hunt  
Cabinet Office  
(Item 1)

SECRETARY

Mr J M Moss

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### DISTRIBUTION

Copy No. 1 - Secretary of State for the Home Department

Copy No. 2 - Mr W R Haydon

Copy No. 3 - Sir John Hunt

1. THE CURRENT STATE OF EMERGENCY

SIR JOHN HUNT sought the views of the Group on how publicity might appropriately be given to the subversive aspects of the current emergencies. In the light of the subsequent discussion, he undertook to reflect their views in a submission to the Prime Minister.

The Group -

Took note.

2. SUB-GROUP ON INDUSTRY  
Previous Reference: 1714(72) 3rd Meeting, Minute 1

MR HERON said that the Sub-Group on Industry had over the past 15 months worked on material from the Security Service and the Department of Employment; the Sub-Group had both pursued some broad themes and also sought to expose certain specific items of information that had come to their notice.

The Group -

Took note.

3. SUB-GROUP UNDER MR J E PESTELL

MR HAYDON said that, as members of the Group were individually aware, a Sub-Group, consisting of representatives of the Department of Employment and the Department of Trade and Industry under the chairmanship of Mr Pestell, had been set up to consider whether any information on industrial disputes compiled for overt use with the Press could also be used less directly and, with Ministerial approval, to use it in this way. The Sub-Group had met once and had implemented one project - the feeding in of questions to a "Talk-in" programme featuring Mr Lawrence Daly.

The Group -

Took note.

4. **MINISTERIAL AUTHORITY FOR PROJECTS**  
**Previous Reference: 1714(72) 2nd Meeting Minute 1**

**THE CHAIRMAN** reminded the group that its terms of reference prescribed that the implementation of its projects should be subject to Ministerial approval.

**MR HEDON** confirmed that, when the Sub-Group on Industry had initiated projects which were not merely natural extensions of the work of IRD or of the Information staff of the Department of Employment, he had sought prior Ministerial approval through Sir Donald Maitland; he would continue to do likewise through Mr Haydon.

**MR HAYDON** confirmed that Ministerial approval had been given for the one project so far initiated by the Sub-Group under the chairmanship of Mr Pestell.

The Group -

Took note.

5. **INTERDEPARTMENTAL GROUP UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF MR WADDELL**  
**Previous Reference: 1714(72) 3rd Meeting, Minute 2**

**MR WADDELL** said that his group had so far met nine times. It was steadily producing a series of reports on different trade unions and had also reported on the security significance of the ultra left in the United Kingdom in 1973.

In discussion, these reports were welcomed as handy works of reference which in particular reflected profitable collaboration between the Security Service and the Department of Employment.

The Group -

Invited Mr Waddell to continue to report orally on the activities of his interdepartmental group.

**6. THE WORK OF THE GROUP**

**Previous Reference: 1714(72) 2nd Meeting, Minute 1**

**THE CHAIRMAN, summing up a short discussion, said that their consideration that afternoon of the current State of Emergency illustrated the role that the Group could perform. It was desirable that they should in future meet three or four times a year.**

**The Group -**

**Took note, with approval, of the Chairman's summing up of their discussion.**

**Cabinet Office**

**18 December 1973**

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### DISTRIBUTION

Copy No. 1 - Lord President of the Council  
" " 2 - Mr D J D Maitland  
" " 3 - Sir Burke Trend

In further discussion it was pointed out that, where there was overt evidence that a subversive employee was likely to change the scene of his operations, it was possible to ensure that this was given enough unofficial publicity to serve as an adequate warning to firms who might be at risk.

~~The Group -~~

~~2. Took note.~~

5. POSSIBLE PROJECTS

Previous Reference: 1714(72) 2nd Meeting, Minute 4

Project (a)

MR REDDAWAY referred to a survey which the newspaper concerned had just begun to publish on its own initiative under the title "The Strifemakers"; the Editor had been supplied with certain photographs which might well be deployed to good effect in an early instalment of the survey.

The Group -

1. Took note.

Project (c) - Divergencies between West European Communist Parties over the EEC

The Group -

2. ~~Invited Mr Maitland, in consultation with Mr Reddaway and Mr Jones, to consider what steps might be taken to give effect to the Prime Minister's wish that reflective Press comment should be promoted to bring out the divergence between the Communist Party of Great Britain and other West European Communist Parties on the subject of Britain's joining the European Communities.~~

*to continue to seek a suitable opportunity*

6. FUTURE BUSINESS

The Group -

Invited Mr Maitland to determine a suitable date for their next meeting.

Cabinet Office

26 27 October 1972

November