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Britain 'still has 40 Red moles'

Ottawa, Feb 5.

A former associate of British spies Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean has said that there are still 40 Soviet "moles" in the British government.

Mr Michael Straight, a key witness in revealing Anthony Blunt as the second "fourth man" in a spy ring operating within the British intelligence service, said he gave authorities the names of 350 suspected Soviet agents in the 1960s.

He said in a recent interview on Canadian television: "Up to 40 had been lifted from the ranks of 'moles' in England, that is to say as members of the Foreign Office, Treasury, Barristers, as judges and in other people in public life."

He also said the names he gave included one or two people in the Foreign Office, the Home Office and the Treasury.

"He added that he had no idea what had happened to them.

He said his association with the spy ring dated back to 1937 when he was at Cambridge University with Burgess and Maclean. He said he had never been a spy himself.

Burgess, Maclean, Blunt and Kim Philby, the master-spy widely credited with doing the most damage to Western intelligence — all came from a group of upper-class intellectuals known as the Apostles.

Reuter.

(See also Page 13)

Free from jail after 22 years

Cape Town, Feb 5.

South Africa today took the release from Pretoria Min Min Oliver Harwood, called a "prisoner of conscience" by Amnesty International, by ending 22 years of exchange controls on travellers and abolishing the dual rand rate from Monday.

He said he was certain that the decision to free foreign investors had been ready poured 1.5 billion rand (US$1.4 billion) into South Africa since the so-called financial rand was introduced in 1979.

The financial rand, introduced in 1979 and abolished in 1981 after political unrest led to a massive outflow of capital, was the channel through which non-residents traded South African shares and other assets.

On Friday, the financial rand was worth about 77.2 US cents and the commercial rand 92.9. Financial analysts said the rand would open on Monday between these two rates.

— Reuter.

The 'Butcher' returns to France

Paris, Feb 5.

Fugitive Nazi Klaus Barbie, expelled by Bolivia after 32 years as a fugitive from European justice, was flown into France today to face charges of crimes against humanity during World War II.

Barbie (69), who changed his name to Altmann in Bolivia, was known in France as "The Butcher of Lyons" for his wartime activities.

He was expected to land in Lyons aboard a French Air Force DC8 which was flying from Cayenne, French Guiana, Paris reports from Cayenne said.

He was expelled last night from Bolivia, where he was arrested almost two weeks ago over a debt. Both France and West Germany sought his extradition.

He "will be tried for crimes against humanity committed during the occupation," a spokesman for the French Justice Ministry said.

A Paris lawyer, Me Raymond de la Pradelle, yesterday challenged the legality of any prosecution of Barbie who is entitled to benefit from a statute of limitations on such actions.

But the Justice Ministry said the Government's view was that Barbie made in the law in 1964 meant that the statute of limitations.

Barbie is accused in France of being responsible for 1,000 killings, and 10,000 deportations, carried out while he was stationed in La Paz, the French press has focused on his activities in Lyons during the occupation. Barbie was in charge of the Gestapo in Lyons in the 1950s twice sentenced him to "death in absentia" by French courts.

Mr Moulin, 18-year-old widow Renee, sold reporters she had been attempting to extradite Mr Barbie. Barbie, first tracked down in Bolivia 11 years ago when, under the name of Altmann, he was a naturalised Bolivian.

"I want him to be condemned. Some death even if he is not executed," she said. "After all, he must never be freed, not only because of Jews Moulin, but because of the other people he killed."

Barbie denies the murder of Moulin, who died about 40 years after the end of the war, is still a powerful symbol of France's fight against Nazi occupation.

A spokesman for the prosecutor's office in Lyons said this week, as prospects for Barbie's return grew, that investigations into his crimes were being completed.

Legal advisers said Barbie would be free to question a judge of his hearing, on the basis of the decision of the Senate of Limoges, given by Mr de la Pradelle.

— Reuter

In a bid to confuse newsmen waiting outside Le Pavillon, three Vietnam people were sent out, each pretending to be Barbie. This picture shows one of the releases. — UPI picture.

Chaos over dental scheme

By ROY EDMONDS

Sudden Government attempts to plug loopholes in its "over-generous" $192-million civil servants' dental scheme have thrown the dental profession into confusion.

Dentists reacted with shock when the Government introduced a limit on the reimbursement plan, which it says has been abused by both patients and dentists.

Dentists admit there is a temptation to overprescribe and overcharge for the scheme because it is easy for allegedly unnecessary work to be done.

At the same time, civil servants admit it "getting as much as possible for free."

Surgeries registered under the scheme received a circular last week from the Medical and Health Department saying course of treatment costing more than $500 would need prior approval from the department.

It was also announced that no further approvals would be granted for orthodontic treatment (correction of irregularities in the teeth, such as braces) where actually using first year of the trial reimbursement scheme finishes in May.

The circular also announced that a "cut-off" date was set which appeared to backdate the new limits to the beginning of the first two months in October last year.

Dentists and their Government patients were left wondering who was now to pay for work costing more than $500 or orthodontic treatment.

A spokesman of the Hongkong Dental Association was held on Thursday night to look at these "drastic" measures, but by the time it was ready to make a statement on the circular the rules were changed again.

The Medical and Health Department spokesman admitted on Thursday that some of the circular had come as a surprise to him and he had not seen a copy.

The next day he announced that the limit on orthodontic treatment would be more generous, he said, adding that the dentists would now be sent a modified circular.

A spokesman for the Hongkong Dental Association said on Friday, "Members were confused by it. We are now waiting for what the next paper says."

The eight-month-old trial scheme allows about 50,000 civil servants and their dependants to claim dental fees at officially-fixed rates of reimbursement.

By the end of December the scheme had cost $104 million — just $6 million short of its trial budget.

Last month the Finance Committee asked for closer monitoring of claims before approving an additional $45 million to pay for the first six months of this year.

From the civil servants' point of view, they push for what they can get out of the scheme is operating. Most of the work that is done or done even if I have said that it might not be necessary, said one dentist.

"There has been some thing of a rush to get treatment completed before the big deadline.

"I had one patient having a root canal treatment and have two hours of same to people putting in claims for $10,000.

"I feel the Government has been too generous in setting its maximum fees.

"There is a temptation to the dentist to match his fees to the maximum. There is also a temptation, with other private patients, to overprescribe.

"If business is not so good then a dentist may find work by, for example, replacing a filling earlier than need.

The whole scheme has been badly handled, he said. The orthodontic work was an example. Many people who needed work have been included in a short trial period.

A civil servant who had $5,000 worth of treatment commented: "I had root canal treatment on one tooth and they charged me $1,000 because it was free. I have never had a cap in my life. Why should I?

"Most people are taking what they can because it is much work done and for free as possible."

The Dental Health Association has already recommended to the Government that a closer monitoring system be set up, modelled on a scheme, said to operate in Britain.

A early bird caught

By ANDY BROWNE

The venue was a hilltop waterfront home in Lantau Shan Wan and Sok Kwu Wan on Lamma Island.

The performance was the *Bird Fair Suite* in Tai Dragon.

And to the audience — a small band of media men — the title earned some chuckles when it was revealed it is written on pastels at 8 a.m.

That was the time that Ms Diana Morin, a Lamma resident, set out on her morning jog, and the Arts Festival Fringe, to visual dance.

Ms Morin is a dancer picked her way up a rocky path to the hillside where a Tibetan prayer flag was being blown by the breeze. The procession like an Indian funeral began.

In the hills the wind was gusting — raising practical questions as to how 30 metres of pastel paper would behave. Ms Morin's idea of Chinese calligraphy.

Success in the ultimate aim — to return the paper to the sea — was achieved.

Ms Morin is bridal white with a veil covering her face. Ms Morin descended from a high point, singing, the roll of paper unfolded in her arms like a bridal gown.

At the tried to anchor one end of the roll to a stone Ms Morin's troubles began. The paper was acting like a very enthusiastic office doodler.

Ms Morin, with "the paper," the artwork generally, "that it's mine," was dragged into the sea.

Scene of the audience laughing at the sight of the paper had moved to work with Ms Morin.

Ms Morin, the dawn dance continued. The darting and diving, the occasional pause to pick up a piece of paper, but sections of paper kept escaping from their freedom.

Members of the audience began to drift away too. Ms Morin, the dancer, was trying a practical form of dance.

14 dead in mine disaster

Mainland Mainland, Feb 5.

Ten coal miners, who were seriously injured in a central Philippines mine tunnel blast last Wednesday, died last night, the Philippine News Agency reported today.

Two of the miners, one of whom had sparked off an explosion and fire when he lit a cigarette some 200 ft underground, were killed instantly in the accident at the San Antonio coal mines in Cebu Island, 550 km south of Manila.

— AFP

Ms Marie leaping into action on a lonely Lamma hilltop. — Picture: SUNNY LEE.

13 die as bomb hits PLO centre

Beirut, Feb 5.

At least 13 people were killed and 60 injured today when a car bomb exploded outside a building housing a research centre owned by the Palestine Liberation Organisation, security sources said.

The PLO's chief representative in Beirut, Shafiq al-Hout, said the blast was the work of the Israeli and Israeli supporters he thought Israel was to blame.

Civil defence rescue workers in jackets up to the thighs fired flares at the scene of the blast in a bid to see inside the building. Two second floors housed the research centre. About 30 people were employed there.

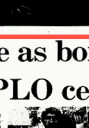
All six stages of the building were damaged by the blast. A car was blown into the lobby and the blast hit the opposite wall from the front door, the Christian militia said.

When Israeli forces finally invaded Beirut in September, after the evacuation of the guerillas, they occupied the study centre and, according to PLO officials, took away all its documents.

The Palestinian sources said the status of the remaining Israeli forces in Beirut has not yet been agreed with the Lebanese Government.

But PLO officials have been allowed to stay while negotiations are held.

— Reuter.



A woman victim is helped from the scene of the picture.

CBG pair may be charged

Charges are expected to be laid today against two directors of Chung Hwa Group Company, CBG Group Ltd.

Mr Cheung Long-hung (33) and his wife, Mrs Mavis Cheung Pun Sin-fai (34), both of whom are in police custody, are expected to be charged with conspiracy to defraud a Government licence to take over the company.

Mr Cheung is believed to have come to Hongkong from Macau in 1980 on a Certificate of Identity.

Over a period of one year he was able to boost the paid-up capital of Chung Hwa from $2 million to $100 million.

It is understood that police are asking where the money came from and are keen to know the extent of Mr Cheung's experience in financial matters.

Mrs Cheung owned the other 10 per cent of the CBG company.

Behind in charge of the company is a man aged 27, believed to have risen from the position of executive trainee to that of executive director in a period of just 18 months.

It is understood that he was authorised to sign the certificates of deposits and make major financial decisions on behalf of the company.

Yesterday's main problem the company's papers contained five deposits from the CCB, three police officers, two agents from the Treasury and two from the Secretary for Commerce and Trade Co-ordination.

Three Government departments probed books of the CBG Group yesterday afternoon.

Inquiries are being made into the personal background of Mr Cheung, of whom little is known. He came to Hong Kong relatively young he owned 90 per cent of a company which secured a Government licence to take over the company.

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'Bargain' $218m for park site

By JIM GILCHRIST

The Government has sold a prime building site in Kowloon Park for a cut-price $218 million — less than half last year's estimated value.

Highest bidders for the site were a joint venture between Golden Hill Ltd and Lucky City Company Ltd, a subsidiary of the New World Development Company and Wharmer Hunt and Investment Company.

Announcement of the Government sale it was satisfied with the sale.

It is planned to build one or two-storey shops with basements on the site between Nathan Road and Middle Road. Experts price-tagged at $450 million just before the stamp of property prices.

The sale is thought to be a major test of Hongkong's property market.

It is understood some property experts hope the sale will help ensure confidence in the market.

Mr Nicholas Lund's chairman, Mr Trevor Redford, said he was pleased with the sale.

"It is a good sign — it shows there are people willing to buy," he said yesterday.

The 17-entire wide Nathan Road site adjoins the Austin Road near Jordan MTR station to the northern boundary of Kowloon mosque near Tsimshatsui MTR station. Development is to be completed by March 31, 1986, at a minimum cost of $75 million.

The Government had Agent (disposal), Mr Duncan Saint-Wil, said it was most encouraging the site had generated interest among developers.

Property developers were obviously interested spending substantial sums of money in this commercial development," he said. The Government is the sale was January 20.

The developer is required to preserve the shops in specific levels. The roof slabs of the shops will enable the Urban Services Department to provide a public toilet, town and bulletin standing signposts Kowloon Park, no more than half a hectare.

Last November, the Government withdrew prime commercial land at Victoria Harbour, Kowloon Bay and Aberdeen only three offers were made or unacceptably low bids.

A month later the Government withdrew two sites both when the Hung Lung consortium pulled out of developing the Admiralty / Austin Road near Jordan

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