

# Army of Snoopers Upsets British Privacy Tradition

By LEO HELMAN

LONDON — Britain for centuries has been the symbol of a citizen's right to privacy from snooping and supervision. But no more.

Not only are there now more wiretapping and mail censorship but official interference makes it impossible for many Britons to lead what they consider normal lives. This emerges from a recent report compiled by the Public Committee for Protection of Privacy (PCPP).

Britain's austerity regime, coupled with the Socialist welfare state economy, has produced the strangest set of circumstances in England's history, the report points out.

For instance, customs inspectors are authorized to enter any post office branch in Britain and ask mail clerks to open letters of firms and clients, to make sure they do not smuggle money out of the country. Many Britons are doing just that, customs spokesmen

claim, to beat the official 50-cent allowance for overseas holidays.

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