

Writer of Expose On CIA Ordered To Leave Britain

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LONDON, Nov. 17—Philip Agee, the former CIA officer who has made a career of exposing the agency's work, was told today by the government that he will be expelled from Britain as a threat to the nation's security.

Agee was accused of "disseminating" undescribed material harmful to Britain's security and maintaining regular contacts with foreign spies. Their country was not named but government sources said this referred to Cuban agents.

Agee, 41, is the second American writer in two days to be served a preliminary deportation order. On Monday, the Home Office, which oversees internal security, told Mark Hosenball that he will be ousted as a security threat.

Hosenball, 25, is an investigative reporter for the Evening Standard. He had written earlier for Time Out, a leftist magazine. During Hosenball's time on the staff the magazine published names of alleged CIA employees in Britain.

Home Secretary Merlyn Rees is for the first time invoking a section of the immigration law that provides for expulsion without any formal appeal. The two writers are allowed only to

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fresh charges of subversion could put Callaghan's largely rightist government, already in trouble because of a weak economy, further on the defensive.

Ian Sproat, a right-wing Tory member of Parliament, charged Monday that at least 30 Labor members are "the equivalent of undercover political agents for alien political creeds." Yesterday the Social Democratic Alliance, a rightist lobby of Labor Party rank and filers, listed 30 members of Parliament the group accused of "sympathies with the varying shades of totalitarian communism." The accused included three Cabinet members.

If the move against Agee and Hosenball was partly inspired by domestic political moves it began having an effect tonight. Arthur Lewis, a Labor member of Parliament, warned he would not support the government on

crucial issues unless the deportation orders were withdrawn and the pair charged in a court of law. Labor holds an overall majority of one in the House of Commons, and the threatened Lewis defection could prove troublesome to Callaghan.

Agee, from his home in Cambridge, termed the charges "totally false" and claimed the British government had "yielded to pressure from the CIA."

He achieved fame with his book, "Inside the Company: CIA Diary." It is a detailed account of his 12 years with the agency in Ecuador, Peru and Mexico. His test, translated into at least 16 foreign languages, alleges repeated and secret CIA intervention into the internal politics of these countries and names scores of his fellow agents.

Agee left the agency in 1969 and has been living in Britain with his wife and two sons since 1972. He frequently lectures here and abroad on

make "representations" to an informal advisory panel of three retired civil servants.

The prospective ouster of the two Americans comes at a time of renewed and harsh attacks against the left-wing of the British Labor Party.

Political observers here have frequently said that the likeliest way to bring down Prime Minister James Callaghan's government is to split the left from the rest of the party. The

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alleged CIA abuses, naming agents in order, he says, "to neutralize" the service.

The CIA has charged that such revelations led to the assassination of Richard Welch, the agency's station chief in Athens.

Tonight, a source in the Western intelligence community confirmed that the CIA had suggested "a long time ago" that both Agee and Hosenball should be ousted from Britain. The source, however, said that the suggestion was not pursued and that at most it could be described as "minimal" pressure.

The source, who is familiar with both cases, said there is no question of espionage involved in either. There is, however, a genuine fear that both writers might endanger the lives of British spies and both are embarrassing to the U.S. government.

A spokesman for the Home Office denied there had been any pressure

from the CIA or the U.S. government. "This is a British decision taken on British criteria involving a threat to British security," he said.

The bulk of the case against Hosenball, this source said, lies in an article he wrote last winter for a defunct leftist magazine, The Leveler. In it, the journalist named two Britons he believed to be working for the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS), the British version of CIA.

Unlike Agee, Hosenball was accused yesterday of prejudicing "the safety of servants of the crown." This is now taken to be a reference to the Leveler article.

Agee has never written about the British service. But the source said that his widening contacts with "dubious" informants might lead him to put SIS and its men in jeopardy.

The previously unused section of the immigration law offers little com-

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fort to the pair. They can bring friends and other witnesses before the advisory panel, but not a lawyer. They cannot demand to know the precise nature of the charges against them, nor can they confront or cross-examine their accusers.

This procedure, the Home Office spokesman explained, is designed to protect informants and agents. If the government thought either had been spying it could have brought them to trial on charges of espionage and held the proceedings in secret to provide the same protection.

Hosenball said tonight his newspaper had hired a lawyer to defend him. If his "representations" to the advisory panel are unsuccessful, Hosenball plans to appeal the deportation order to the high court.

No order to get out will be issued until the advisory panel reports. Agee and Hosenball have been served only with a Letter of Intent to deport.

The complaint against Agee says:

"The secretary of state [Rees] has considered information that Mr. Agee:

"A. Has maintained regular contacts harmful to the security of the United Kingdom with foreign intelligence agents.

"B. Has been and continues to be involved in disseminating information harmful to the security of the United Kingdom.

"C. Has aided and counseled others in obtaining information for publication which could be harmful to the security of the United Kingdom."

Agee has been frequently contacted by journalists of all nationalities here, including Hosenball, for accounts of CIA activity.

Agee said tonight he had been in touch with Cuban diplomats in Britain three times in the past 18 months. He insisted he spoke to them only about plans to publish his book in Havana.

Last summer, Agee traveled to the Soviet Union, he said, but again it was

only to discuss printing of his CIA book in Russian.

"I don't know about the British secret service," he said, "so how could I have published anything about it."

He speculated that one motive for ousting him from Britain might be to force him back to the United States. There, he said, a court could stop publication of a second book he is now writing about the American agency.

Government sources here say both writers are in frequent touch with suspect leftists, British and foreign, and indicated they feared that the pair could pass on classified information to them. Hosenball was described as "perhaps an unwitting tool" of hostile intelligence networks.

The reporter said, "Whatever I have done and written has always been in my capacity as a journalist consistent with the basic commercial and editorial interests of my employers and has been done with no ulterior or political motive whatsoever."

Both Hosenball and Agee are members of the National Union of Journalists and that body called them "victims of a shoddy deal between the United States and British authorities."