

AMERICAN NEWSMAN TOLD TO QUIT BRITAIN

Reporter for The Evening Standard
Ordered Out on Ground He Is a
Threat to National Security

By PETER T. KILBORN

Special to The New York Times

LONDON, Nov. 16—The British Government today ordered an American investigative reporter for a London newspaper to leave the country on the ground that he was a threat to national security. British and American officials here could recall no precedent for such an action against a foreign-born journalist.

The reporter is Mark Hosenball, 25 years old, who has lived here for about six years and has worked for the tabloid Evening Standard since July. His editor, Charles Wintour, called Mr. Hosenball "a most dilligent, prolific and intelligent reporter" and said that he had hired him over 100 other applicants.

At a news conference this evening, Mr. Hosenball speculated that articles he had written for his previous employer, Time Out magazine, an entertainment guide with an anti-Establishment news section, could have provoked the deportation notice. He wrote reports for Time Out about a defense communications center, the troubles in Northern Ireland and the Central Intelligence Agency.

In one article about the C.I.A., he listed names purported to be of agents operating in Britain. Last December, after publication of a similar list by an English-language newspaper in Athens, the chief C.I.A. agent there, Richard S. Welsh, was shot and killed.

Embassy Reports No Pressure

Mr. Hosenball's reports on the intelligence agency, however, appeared more than a year ago, and he said that in the period since then he had never been approached by Government officials. A United States Embassy spokesman said that he knew of no United States pressure on Britain to discipline Mr. Hosenball. The Home Office said that the reporter was being asked to leave Britain within 14 days under terms of a five-year-old immigration act. The office cited a section of the act allowing deportation of foreigners when their presence in Britain is incompatible with the public good.

A Home Office spokesman said further that Mr. Hosenball had obtained information that was harmful to the security of Britain. But he did not say what information had been obtained or whether the information had been published. Mr. Hosenball said he did not know what information the office was referring to.

He said he had attended the University of Pennsylvania, that he had first come to Britain on an English Speaking Union scholarship and that he had spent three years at Trinity College, Dublin. He said he had been born in Cleveland, Ohio, and that his parents lived in Washington, D.C.

Hosenball Plans Appeal

Mr. Hosenball said he would appeal the deportation order, an action he must take quickly to stay within the order's 14-day deadline for leaving the country. Such appeals, which are heard by an independent three-man board, are rarely successful.

Mr. Wintour, the editor of The Standard, said that the newspaper would support the appeal and that several members of Parliament might also do so. "There was no detailed reason given for this action," he said, "and I therefore regard it as a miscarriage of justice."

There had been no warning of today's action, Mr. Hosenball said. The editor of Time Out, Tony Elliott, said that he, too, had heard nothing of it before today and that he had not been questioned about Mr. Hosenball's articles by Government officials.

"Two plainclothes police officers called at my house at 8 o'clock this morning," Mr. Hosenball said. "I wasn't there because I go to work early. I then received a frantic call from my landlady. The officers then came to The Evening Standard."