

Britain Refuses to Disclose Details Of Deportation of 2 U.S. Writers

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LONDON, Nov. 18—Britain's Home Secretary, Merlyn Rees, was called before the House of Commons today to explain why he intends to deport two American writers—Philip Agee, a prominent critic of the Central Intelligence Agency, and Mark Hosenball, a journalist who has written extensively about the C.I.A. and British intelligence services.

Mr. Rees said very little. He claimed that the two men were risks to British security and referred to earlier statements that Mr. Agee, a former C.I.A. officer, had been dealing with foreign intelligence agents. He also said that Mr. Hosenball had obtained classified information.

Mr. Rees indicated that foreign—that is, American—pressure was not involved in his decision. But he refused to detail what the men had done because to do so, he said, would jeopardize Britain's security.

Mr. Agee and Mr. Hosenball have no real right of appeal to a deportation order. They can only protest the action, without a lawyer, before a Government-selected advisory panel.

Have Become Cause Célèbre

The two, however grave their alleged acts, have therefore become a cause célèbre among the country's journalists, its leading civil libertarians and several members of Parliament.

As a result, they have become political risks. Their supporters, most of whom are normally sympathetic to the Labor Government, are now in a position to upset the party's slim control over Parliament and with that its ability to remain in power.

Last night, one normally loyal Labor Member of Parliament, Arthur Lewis, abstained from voting on Government-inspired legislation and said he would continue to do so until Mr. Agee and Mr. Hosenball were given a fair trial.

But Mr. Rees stood his ground, and sources in the Government who are often helpful about security matters added nothing to what he had said. The Government's only real solace came from the right wing.

To Labor cries of "What do you know?" Conservative member Winston Churchill, grandson of the late Prime Minister, said, "There will be no sympathy for those foreign guests who seek to refuse our

hospitality by meddling in security matters."

Because of the Government's refusal to be more specific about the reasons for the deportation notices, speculation persists that American influence is involved.

"It is a phony setup," said Mr. Lewis. "Obviously the C.I.A. wants these men back. If they are so anxious, why do they not institute proceedings for extradition?"

"In the absence of some sort of statement, some sort of clarification," said Martin Kettle, an officer of the National Council for Civil Liberties, "we have to assume that the American Government has put some sort of pressure on."

Mr. Agee, particularly, is a leading critic of the C.I.A. He has written extensively about the agency, exposing its operations and divulging names of agents. Mr. Hosenball, while working for a British counterculture magazine, Time Out, also listed agents by name. Last December, an agent in Athens whose name had appeared on a list published there was shot and killed.

Agee Inquiry Under Way

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 18 — A Justice Department source said today that its lawyers had been giving "serious consideration" to the possibility that Mr. Agee had violated federal espionage statutes by publishing a detailed account of the C.I.A.'s activities in Mexico and Central America.

Mr. Agee's book, "Inside the Company: C.I.A. Diary," appeared last year and contained the names of numerous agency officers and contract employees. The C.I.A. reportedly responded by substantially reorganizing its western hemisphere operations.

The Justice source said that a determination of whether or not Mr. Agee had broken the law would not be made until he was deported.