

# British Act To Deport Ex-CIA Man

London

In a rare move, the British government said yesterday that it plans to deport Philip Agee, a former U.S. Central Intelligence Agency operative who became a vehement critic of the CIA after quitting the agency.

A government spokesman said Home Secretary Merlyn Rees had moved for deportation of Agee after considering information indicating that the nine-year CIA veteran has "maintained regular contacts harmful to the security of the United Kingdom with foreign intelligence officers."

The spokesman also said that Agee "has been and continues to be involved in disseminating information harmful to the security of the United Kingdom," as well as helping others to obtain such information for publication.

Agee, 41, responded that "the allegations are totally false." He contended the move was prompted by the United States and aimed to block him from publishing a second

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book revealing CIA secrets.

The rarity of the deportation step was believed to reflect the seriousness with which the government views the cases of Agee and Mark Hosenball, an American reporter for the London Evening Standard. A move to oust Hosenball on similar grounds was disclosed Tuesday.

The steps appeared in contrast with Britain's reputation for tolerance of widely varying political beliefs. The nation has given asylum to refugees from the right-wing regime in Chile as well as from Iron Curtain countries. Well known figures now living in exile in Britain include Nguyen Van Thieu, ex-president of South Vietnam.

A Home Office spokesman described as "total and complete nonsense" Agee's contention that the almost unprecedented move resulted from CIA or U.S. government pressure.

"There is no American or CIA pressure at all involved," he said. "It is a British domestic security matter. We deny emphatically any pressure."

Asked about possible American pressure, U.S. embassy spokesman William Hamilton said he had checked with embassy officials on both Agee and Hosenball and "as far as we can find out there have been no such representations" from U.S. to British authorities in either case.

After his service with the spy agency, primarily in Latin America, Agee wrote a book, "Inside the Company: CIA Diary," published two years ago. It described agency operations in detail and disclosed names of agents. Agee is now working on the second book.

The cases of Agee and Hosenball, 25, were believed to be connected, but the Home Office spokesman refused to comment officially on this or to give any further details of the charges against the two men.

The spokesman said both Agee and Hosenball have two weeks to "make representations" to an independent tribunal of three well-known public figures that advises the Home Office on security matters.

Agee denied that he had disseminated any information harmful to British security. "I have not said anything about British security or the British security services," Agee said.

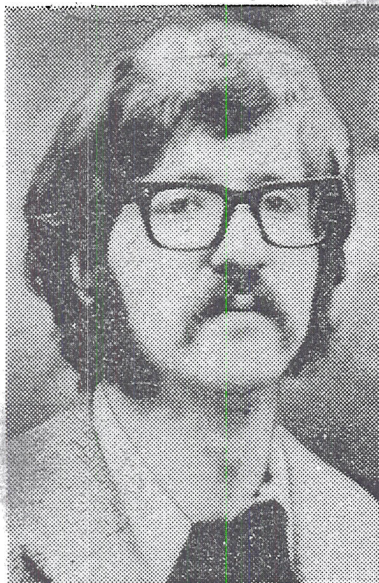
He added: "I believe pressure has been put on the government here from the very highest level to order me out in an attempt to disrupt publication of my second book."

Hosenball said the deportation order against him "undoubtedly hinges on some story I did in my capacity as a journalist for Time Out magazine," an unorthodox guide for young people. He said the story concerned the British government's communications headquarters.

Charles Wintour, editor of the Evening Standard, said he had had no reason to complain about Hosenball's conduct and that he regards the deportation move as a miscarriage of justice.

It is believed that the provision under which the government is seeking to deport Agee and Hosenball has been invoked on security grounds only once before — in a 1974 case of a man accused of links with Marxist revolutionaries. The deportation order in that case was subsequently revoked.

*Associated Press*



UPI Telephoto

MARK HOSENBALL  
Target of similar move



AP Wirephoto

PHILIP AGEE  
British want him out