

The circulation of this paper has been strictly limited.  
It is issued for the personal use of \_\_\_\_\_

TOP SECRET

A.C.(M)(51) 4

23RD JUNE. 1951

**THIS IS A COPY. THE ORIGINAL IS  
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4)  
OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT**

CABINET

MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON COMMUNISM

THE WORK OF THE OFFICIAL COMMITTEE ON COMMUNISM (OVERSEAS)

Memorandum by the Chairman of the Official Committee

At the suggestion of the Foreign Secretary, I submit, for the information of Ministers, a note on the activities to date of the Official Committee on Communism (Overseas).

2. The Committee has been concerned with the following measures, for which, wherever necessary, Ministerial approval has been obtained.

Activities in Communist countries

3. Last December, Ministers approved proposals submitted by the Committee for the introduction and dissemination of clandestine anti-Communist propaganda in Czechoslovakia, the Soviet Zones of Germany and Austria and, if circumstances permitted, Hungary and Poland. The object of this propaganda will be to maintain the spirit of resistance in the population, to foster mistrust between the Communist administrations and their Russian masters, to discredit the Communist administrations and individual leaders, and in general to make things as difficult as possible for the Communist Governments. Physical violence and sabotage, and any activity which might compromise any member of the staff of H.M. Mission in the country concerned, are barred. The proposals have been explained to and approved by H.M. Representatives in the countries concerned.

Operations in the Eastern Zone of Germany are already under way and the first operation to Czechoslovakia should take place very shortly.

Activities in South-East Asia and the Far East

4. The Committee has approved a number of proposals for combating Communist propaganda and influence in South-East Asia, the more important of which are as follows:-

(a)

(b) Encouragement, where appropriate, of the expansion of the activities of the International Congress of Free Trade Unions in South-East Asia.

(c) Measures designed to impede the movements and activities of Communist agents and news agencies (e.g. the tightening up of transit visa regulations in British Colonial territories in the area).

(d) The establishment of centres of Chinese studies in Hong Kong and Singapore.

5. These proposals were discussed at a Conference held in Singapore last November under the chairmanship of the Commissioner-General and attended by H.M. Representatives and the Governors of the British Colonies in South-East Asia. They were approved in principle, subject to certain reservations. Sir J. Sterndale-Bennett, Deputy Commissioner-General for South-East Asia, has forwarded his comments on them in the light of the discussions held at Singapore, and it is hoped to take action on them in the near future. Any of the proposals which involve major questions of policy or additional expenditure of public funds will, of course, be submitted to Ministers for approval.

#### Activities in the Middle East

6. Some time ago, as a result of recommendations by the Committee, the Foreign Office addressed despatches to H.M. Representatives in the Middle Eastern countries inviting them to consider ways and means of encouraging the Governments to which they are accredited to take legislative and administrative action to combat Communist activities. After studying the replies to these despatches, the Committee recently invited the Foreign Office to recommend to H.M. Representatives in Middle Eastern countries that they should, in consultation with each other, take such steps as seemed appropriate to them to encourage an exchange of information between Middle Eastern Governments about Communist activities, and to ask H.M. Ambassador in Iraq, provided he saw no objection, to recommend to the Iraqi Government that they should take steps to segregate and re-educate politically persons held on charges of Communist activities.

**THIS IS A COPY. THE ORIGINAL IS  
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4)  
OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT**

#### Training of Foreign Police

7. Acting on a recommendation of the Committee, the Overseas Planning Section recently held a meeting between the Home Office and Departments of the Foreign Office to consider ways and means of arranging for visits of foreign police officials to this country, in order to give them an insight into, and, where possible, training in, British police methods. A plan of action has been agreed in principle between the Home Office and the Foreign Office.

#### Training of Foreign Security Officials

8. The Committee recently approved in principle a plan worked out by the Security Services for training foreign security officers in methods of countering Communist activities. This plan, which includes provision, where possible, for training security officers to be attached to H.M. Missions in certain countries or lent to foreign Governments, has been discussed between the Foreign Office and the Security Services, and the action agreed is in hand.

Communist activities in the United Kingdom

9. In February, 1951, Ministers approved a proposal by the Committee that an official body should be set up to combat Communist activities in the United Kingdom. As a result, an inter-departmental Official Committee on Communism (Home) has been set up, together with a special Briefing Group for the purpose of supplying material, for use through Ministerial speeches and other public information channels, on the economic impacts, objects and purposes of rearmament.

Other measures

10. The following further measures are under discussion by the Committee, or between the Committee and the Government Departments concerned, including the Foreign Office:-

- (a) Proposals for controlling undesirable travel by British subjects, including especially British colonial students, to "Iron Curtain" countries. The Committee proposes to submit a paper to Ministers on this question in the near future.
- (b) The re-introduction of visas for persons wishing to travel to British Colonial territories, with the object of keeping out Communist agitators. This is under discussion with the Colonial Office, with a view to a submission to Ministers.
- (c) Other measures to combat Communist activities in British Colonies. The Committee is at present discussing with the Colonial Office the question of Communist activities in Cyprus, with a view to making recommendations to Ministers. Discussions have also been held, and are continuing, with the Colonial Office with a view to taking action in other British Colonies, notably in Africa, against the activities of Communist agents and organisations, particularly in regard to the dissemination of Communist literature imported from Europe. (The problem of visits by Colonial students to Iron Curtain countries for purposes of study is being dealt with in the paper referred to in (a) above.)
- (d) Economic Measures. Among the proposals approved by Ministers for action against Communist regimes (see paragraph 3 above) was a recommendation that measures should be taken, wherever possible, to hamper the activities of Communist Governments in the economic field, provided that this could be done without prejudice to the policy of H.M. Government in the United Kingdom in regard to trade with the Eastern bloc.

THIS IS A COPY. THE ORIGINAL IS  
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4)  
OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

~~CLOSED UNDER THE~~  
~~FREEDOM OF INFORMATION~~  
~~ACT 2000~~

THIS IS A COPY. THE ORIGINAL IS  
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4)  
OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

(e

(Signed) PIERSON DIXON

Chairman of the Official  
Committee on Communism (Overseas)

~~CLOSED UNDER THE~~  
~~FREEDOM OF INFORMATION~~  
~~ACT 2000~~

Cabinet Office, S.W.1.

23RD JUNE, 1951.

THIS IS A COPY. THE ORIGINAL IS  
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4)  
OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

THIS DOCUMENT  
The original  
It is is  
MOST SECRET

A. C. (M)  
20TH JUNE

herewith  
Communism  
from the  
other  
which  
2.  
Committee

Cabinet  
2

C  
i  
t  
G  
e  
I  
a  
n  
v  
t  
I  
I