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Wife of former British agent says she worked for Soviets

LONDON [UPI]—The wife of a former member of Britain's intelligence network MI-5 admitted she was a Soviet agent supervised by the same spy controller as defectors Guy Burgess and Donald MacLean, the Daily Telegraph reported Monday.

The newspaper report was the second in two days linking Jenifer Hart, a retired history professor at Oxford University, with Soviet penetration of the British political establishment and security-services since the 1930s.

Twenty-four hours earlier, The Sunday Times said Mrs. Hart, believed to be in her late 60s or early 70s, made the disclosure in a

British Broadcasting Corp. television documentary scheduled for nationwide screening later this month.

Both newspapers said she denied actually passing secrets to the Soviet Union.

THE REPORTS said it was still unclear whether her husband, a senior MI-5 official during World War II, knew of her recruitment by the Soviets at Oxford in the late 1930s.

Her husband, Prof. Herbert Hart, an internationally respected law authority whom she married in 1941, worked alongside Anthony Blunt in MI-5.

Blunt was publicly unmasked in 1979 as a

longtime Soviet agent and stripped of his knighthood by Queen Elizabeth, whom he had served as art adviser.

The reports said Mrs. Hart was unavailable for comment at her home in Oxford and that her husband, former principal of Oxford's Braenose College who marks his 76th birthday Monday, refused to talk to the press.

THE DAILY Telegraph said Mrs. Hart told the BBC she was recruited as a secret member of the British Communist Party in the 1930s with instructions to remain an undercover "sleeper" until her services were called for. She reportedly said she was inducted by

Bernard Floud, later a Labor Party member of Parliament. Floud committed suicide in 1967 after a routine security screening when he was nominated to a minor government post.

Mrs. Hart eventually joined the Home Difice, where she worked in a section keeping tabs on the British Communist Party as well as overseeing telephone tapping and mail interception, the reports said.

Both reports said she claimed that at one time she shared the same Moscow controller with Burgess and MacLean, British diplomats who fied to Moscow in 1951 on the brink of arrest as traitors.