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Chernov homeward-bound at Heathrow yesterday with his wife Valshrina and their seven-year-old son Anton.

Prime had 'blackmail' list

GEOFFREY PRIME, the jailed spy, acted as a "talent spotter" for his Soviet masters and drew up a detailed list of staff at the Government Communications HQ in Cheltenham who he thought could be blackmailed.

During his 14 years as a Russian linguist, the last two at GCHQ Prime, 42, who was jailed for 35 years in November, built up details on file of the people he worked with.

As a result of the discovery of a considerable number of files containing hundreds of personal facts about his colleagues, those named have been interviewed by officers of MI5 and GCHQ's security division.

Five of those named by Prime have subsequently been disciplined and lost security clearance because they were not entirely frank and forthcoming when they were interviewed.

The people were questioned in an attempt to discover if they had been put under any pressure by the Russians.

Facts withheld

The five who lost security clearance, and as a result were demoted, tried to cover up certain facts which they did not know their interrogators were aware of as a result of Prime's information.

Although none was found to be under pressure from the Russians, they have been demoted because they failed to disclose certain personal details.

The inquiries, described by one of the five as "hostile," involved detailed examination of their own private bank accounts and extended to what they did in their private lives.

Replaced by 'mole'

The reason for the intensive interview is that MI5 believes that when Prime came to leave the base in 1977, he had already been replaced by at least one other "mole" who had an equal if not greater access to classified information.

Otherwise Prime would have been encouraged to stay on as a section head in the Russian division. But instead the Russians agreed to him leaving and even offered him the rank of colonel in the KGB with a pension for life.

Prime who also built up a detailed file of over 2,000 young girls, three of whom he assaulted in attacks which finally led to his arrest and the discovery of his spying activities, is due to appeal against his sentence later in the year.

He will be claiming that the 35-year sentence was too harsh a sentence in view of the fact that he gave police and MI5 full cooperation.

BONUS FOR FALKLAND SETTLERS

By TONY ALLEN-MILLS

A GROUP of six teachers and one public works administrator are due to leave Britain for the Falkland Islands next month, as part of a Government scheme offering tax-free bonuses worth up to £6,000 a year to professionals prepared to accept short-term contracts overseas.

The teachers will be among the first civilians to settle in the Falklands since the Argentine invasion.

They have been recruited by the Overseas Development Administration, a branch of the Foreign Office which also sends British professionals to underdeveloped Third World countries.

A spokesman for the Administration said yesterday the bonus scheme, which had been in operation for "many years," was intended to "top up" salaries paid by the Falkland Islands Government and offer British teachers an inducement to move to the South Atlantic.

Staff salaries

Teachers' salaries on the Islands range from £3,500 to just over £4,400. The tax-free "top-up" can be worth between £4,500 and £6,000 a year.

The bonuses are only payable to staff appointed by the Falkland Islands Government and recruited by the Overseas Development Administration.

The incentive scheme was devised in the pre-invasion days when most Britons needed a large atlas to pinpoint the whereabouts of the Falklands.

In the aftermath of the victory against Argentina, the flood of applications to emigrate to the Islands suggests that the Government may well find it no longer needs to offer people inducements to work there.

But Falklands officials point out that it may be several months before the Islands can process applications and accommodate new arrivals.

In the meantime the Overseas Development Administration is continuing with its search for professionals to fill both existing jobs and a few specialist posts dealing with the after-effects of war.

The teachers leaving Britain next month have been offered two-year contracts with a third-year option. They will fly to Ascension Island and then continue to Port Stanley by ship.

JENKIN PUSHES FOR MORE SALES TO CHINA
By GRAHAM FAYERS

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28 Jan '83

GEOFFREY PRIME

We are asked to state that Geoffrey Prime, 42, sentenced at the Old Bailey in November to 35 years' imprisonment for spying for Russia, denies that at any time he kept a blackmail list. It is also denied that he passed on to the Russians personal facts about colleagues at GCHQ which could have been used for blackmail.

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