

# THE



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THE TIMES

## Tomorrow

- Speaking up  
Eduard Rantzen on  
coming to terms with  
the death of a baby
- Looking on  
Television 20 years  
from now: Part 2
- Calling in  
Mrs Thatcher meets  
Chancellor Kohl;  
Michael Binyon reports
- Looking back  
John Wayne by Pat  
the  
woman he loved
- Stepping in  
The differences between  
invasions of  
and Afghanistan

## M15 man faces new charge

M15 officer on secrets  
Michael Bettaney, has  
further charged with  
an assessment by the  
intelligence services of a KGB  
network operating in Britain

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## UC seeks £3bn aid for poor

Trade union leaders will be  
asked to approve an economic  
policy which requires extra  
government spending of almost  
£3bn on the poorest sections of  
society

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## China quake

Earthquake in eastern China  
killed 39 people, according to  
reports. Hundreds of  
were destroyed or  
damaged and rescue operations  
are under way.

## Turkey braced

Turkey awaits the reaction of  
the military regime to the  
Motherland Party which won a

## Lebanon tension mounts

# Syria calls up entire military reserves

- President Assad of Syria yesterday called up 100,000 reservists to counter "signs of aggression" involving United States forces.
- Fears of a wider flare-up in Lebanon grew with the gathering of 29 American warships with 300 aircraft in the Mediterranean.
- The Syrian mobilization prompted Israel to place its army on special alert. But the Israelis partially lifted their blockade of Awali river bridges (page 6).
- In London Mrs Thatcher urged caution on Washington when she met an envoy sent by President Reagan to defend fences after the Grenada invasion.

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

Western diplomats in Beirut and Lebanese Government officials were expressing deepening concern last night that a new war - perhaps involving American troops - might soon break out in Lebanon following Syria's decision yesterday to call up its entire military reserve force.

Apparently fearing that the Americans might retaliate against his country for the bombing of the US Marine base in Beirut two weeks ago, President Assad ordered 100,000 reservists to report for duty within 24 hours because of what an official called "signs of an aggression against Syria with direct American participation".

The Americans have produced no proof that Syria was behind the bombings and Syria itself has in the past used partial military call-ups as a form of political pressure on its adver-

sely-clustered slums south of their positions.

Indeed, for most of the day, the only aircraft to be seen over the Lebanese capital were American F-14 "Tomcat" fighter-interceptors, twin-tailed jets that swept at low level and with a great deal of noise over the city in a series of apparent reconnaissance missions. The aircraft had been scrambled from the carrier USS Eisenhower and for the first time were protected by fighter aircraft flying at a higher altitude in case the F-14s were attacked.

A new American task force carrying a replacement Marine unit is due to arrive off Beirut this week, bringing the number of American vessels along the coast to almost 30; the armada of Nato warships cruising off Lebanon usually grows in size during the routine changeover of American multinational no doubt that if American contempt any kind of military action in Lebanon.



Child victims: Two Lebanese br

## Andropov misses Red Square parade

From Richard Owen  
Moscow  
President Andropov's absence from the annual parade on Red Square yesterday has intensified speculation about his ability to run the Soviet Union, although his portrait dominated proceedings and his name was constantly invoked. Mr Andropov's absence from additional Kremlin celebrations marking the anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution last Saturday sparked off

*18 OCT 83*

**MI5 officer  
in court**

MICHAEL BETTANEY, an MI5 officer, appeared in court yesterday for the first time since he was charged with espionage a month ago. He was remanded in custody for another week by Horseferry Road magistrates, writes Richard Norton-Taylor.

He is charged under Section 7 of the 1920 Official Secrets Act with committing, between January and September this year, "certain acts preparatory to communicating to another person for a purpose prejudicial to the safety or interest of the state, information calculated to be useful to an enemy."

18 OCT 83

## Lie tests 'would not stop spies'

By Richard Norton-Taylor

The introduction of polygraphs — lie detectors — into Britain's security and intelligence services will do little to detect trained spies and could even help to protect them, the Society of Civil and Public Servants said yesterday.

In a pamphlet distributed at Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) in Cheltenham, it challenges the Security Commission's assertion earlier this year that lie detector tests would have either prevented or caught the spy Geoffrey Prime.

Lawyers and psychiatrists have attacked the polygraph as unreliable, and American evidence suggests that it wrongly clears 1 in 4 guilty subjects, while wrongly accusing 50 per cent of innocent people. Seven reports to the US Congress in 20 years have all concluded that lie detectors can be intrusive, unjust and counter-productive, the pamphlet says.

Psychiatrists say the lie detector is a particularly unsuitable and unreliable instrument for predicting future behaviour. Professor David Lykken, a former adviser on polygraph tests to the US Defence Department, has suggested simple tricks might beat lie detectors, such as pressing the foot against a pin.

Dr Gisli Gudjonsson, of the Institute of Psychiatry in London, has said that the main problem is that lie detector tests classify many truthful people as deceptive.

In its report on Geoffrey Prime, the gaol'd former GCHQ employee who admitted passing information to Russia, the Security Commission proposed introducing the polygraph in a limited way. Security officials have been to Washington for CIA training in polygraph use.

The initiative followed strong pressure from the US National Security Agency, which has a liaison pact with GCHQ.

GCHQ staff have so far refused to use them and, in an attempt to avoid a serious industrial relations dispute, senior officials there offered to take the tests voluntarily following the recent early retirement of the GCHQ director, Sir Brian Tovey, who was one of those unhappy about the polygraph.

Mr Campbell Christie, SCPS deputy general secretary argued yesterday that there would be a temptation to an individual who passed a polygraph test as a 100 per cent safe, making the polygraph "the spy's ticket to a Civil Service career."

The National Council for Civil Liberties yesterday warned against polygraph use and pointed to the British Medical Association's opposition to the other Security Commission proposal—that vetting for sensitive posts should include checking medical files.

**Spy charge man  
in court**

MICHAEL Bettaney, the MI5 agent accused of spying, was further remanded in custody for a week when he appeared at Horseferry Road, Magistrates' Court yesterday, a week earlier than planned.

His name was not on the court lists, and he was not due to appear in court until October 17. His name was due to be listed today for a formal weekly remand to be dealt with in his absence.

# US demand for introduction of lie-detectors blamed

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Civil Service union leaders last night branded the Government's proposed buy-out of union membership at GCHQ as "Judas money" and predicted that it would be rejected by 3,000 members.

They said that the Foreign Secretary's reasons were "a lie" and the official version a cover-up for American pressure on the Cabinet to break union resistance to the introduction of lie-detectors into sensitive defence installations.

The Council of Civil Service Unions is demanding an early meeting with Mrs Thatcher in her role as head of the Civil Service to try to dissuade the Government from going ahead with de-recognition of the five unions.

The TUC will be brought into the dispute today.

Mr John Sheldon, general secretary of the Civil Service Union which has the largest number of GCHQ members, described the ex-gratia payment offered by Sir Geoffrey as "an offensive bribe". "They already have the loyalty of these people. It was proved in 1981, when despite the pay dispute all security work at Cheltenham

continued. To offer them £1,000 must suggest that it is unpatriotic to belong to a trade union. It is a blatant and obvious downright lie. Trade union members are just as patriotic and loyal as any other civil servants."

Union leaders were called to the Cabinet office yesterday afternoon to be told of the Foreign Office move.

The head of the civil service,

Sir Robert Armstrong, cited the implications of the lengthy 1981 strike by Civil servants as justification.

Mr Sheldon said: "This is a cover-up. The real reason for the announcement is that they are having pressure put on them to introduce the polygraph, to which we are opposed on the grounds of interference with civil liberties. It is the USA putting the pressure on the Government about its security system."

Mr Alastair Graham, general secretary of the largest Whitehall union, the Civil and Public Services Association, said: "I would have expected this from General Jaruzelski in Poland, but not from a Prime Minister of a democratic state. I do not believe that people's civil and trade union liberties can be bought for £1,000."

The union believes that ministers think the access enjoyed by full-time union officials to their members at GCHQ is a potential security hazard as they are not positively vetted. But nearly three years ago union leaders were warned that the United States and other

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## GCHQ union ban blamed on pressure from US

Continued from page 1

Nato allies were unhappy that a national one-day stoppage and further industrial sanctions at Cheltenham and the tracking station at Bude in Cornwall would damage strategic cover of signals traffic and hamper the surveillance of Soviet warships.

In their announcement on March 8, 1981, the unions said: "There will be a range of selective and disruptive action which will affect Britain's secret communications surveillance network. There will be both national and international repercussions."

Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, is to meet leaders of the civil service unions this morning. Last night, he said: "This decision by the Foreign Secretary, made without consultation or advance notice to unions whatsoever, is

an appalling and unacceptable denial of basic rights.

"Civil servants, whatever their work, deserve and require the protection of the union and proper union representation just as much as other workers.

"It is grossly offensive for the Foreign Secretary to imply that the fact of trade union membership poses any threat to national security. If there are or may be problems of any sort the Foreign Secretary should spell out what they are and discuss them with unions concerned, not jump to the most extreme measure possible.

"The offer of a tame, state-controlled union, backed up by £1,000 bribes, is no alternative to the right of genuine trade union membership

The Government has set a deadline of March 1 for GCHQ employees to accept the ex-gratia payments.

*The Times*  
26 Jan '84

### 1981 Civil Service dispute

## Intelligence efforts were imperilled

By Peter Hennessy

Sir Robert Armstrong, Secretary of the Cabinet, admitted yesterday that the five-month Civil Service dispute in 1981 seriously imperilled Britain's intelligence efforts. He was speaking at a meeting in the Cabinet Office with the general secretaries of Whitehall unions. The Government has never published its assessment of the damage inflicted by the dispute three years ago. However, it led to instant and insistent pressure from the Reagan Administration that ministers intervene to restore the intelligence flow.

Under a series of 1946 treaties, Britain and the United States parcel out the world between them for the purposes of gathering signals and electronic intelligence. Its constant supply is deemed vital for the monitoring of the military and diplomatic intentions of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw pact countries.

The National Security Agency, the US equivalent of the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) in Cheltenham, which is to be de-unionized, funds a substantial proportion of the British effort in this expensive, capital intensive branch of espionage. It provides advanced equipment and seconded personnel for Cheltenham's world-wide network of listening posts, known as the Composite Signals Organization. The product is pooled and analysed jointly.

On March 9, 1981, the first day of the dispute, Washington was incensed when a walkout of technicians closed the station on Ascension Island, the West Atlantic, and the tracking station at Bude in Cornwall. Bude monitors the path of Soviet spy satellites as they pass over the eastern Atlantic and Western Europe, feeding its data to the immensely secret National Reconnaissance Office in Washington.

Sporadic disruption continued for five months. It affected routine intelligence gathering from Scarborough (which listens in to the North Sea and the Baltic), to the UK Sovereign Base in Cyprus and Little Sai Wan, the Hongkong station, the Glanvaux exercise, Winter '81, in which Nato nations simulated the transition to war with the Warsaw Pact was also affected.

Last year the very special intelligence relationship of the last 38 years was also strained with the conviction of the former GCHQ linguist, Geoffrey Prime, for spying for Russia.

At the insistence of the Reagan Administration, the British Cabinet was forced to approve the application of lie-detectors, or polygraphs, to members of the security and intelligence agencies. The Civil Service unions objected on civil liberties and efficiency grounds, arguing that US experience showed polygraphs to be highly unreliable.

At a meeting with the unions on July 8, Sir Robert Armstrong insisted that the Government would press ahead with the introduction of a pilot scheme at Cheltenham. However, as the minutes of the meeting record: "He too would not find the use of the polygraph attractive. But the Security Commission (which reported on the Prime affair) said it was the one thing that might have deterred Prime."

The security service, MI5, has been very active at Cheltenham since the uncovering of Prime investigating persistent, although as yet unproved, suspicion that he had not acted alone. There has been indiscreet rumour that there are growing links between official who is involved and several individuals have been under scrutiny.

Whitehall sources indicate strongly yesterday that the Foreign Secretary would remove the ban on MI5's records had no connection with the aftermath of Prime or

any other present security worries. The decision, stemmed solely from the assessment of the 1981 damage and the Government's determination that the vital raw material of British intelligence shall not be jeopardized again.

The agency employs 10,000 people at Cheltenham and around the world, some 60 per cent of whom belong to unions.

It now seems that the Cabinet has been contemplating such a move for three years. It was decided to wait until the 1983 election was past as it was "such a big step to take".

In the aftermath of Prime, there are unconfirmed reports that MI5 has uncovered a small Militant Tendency cell at Cheltenham. It is said to consist of about six people who belong to the Civil and Public Services Association and the Society of Civil and Public Servant.

MI5 have also mounted a special investigation into the findings of a one-day conference on polygraphs held at the Festival Hall in London on December 6. The Society of Civil and Public Servants, which organized it, has invited leading anti-polygraph authority from the United States, Professor David Lykken, a psychologist from the University of Minnesota to the conference.

Sir Robert Armstrong tried earlier this month to defuse union hostility to lie-detectors which are to be used at Cheltenham on an experimental basis from April 1. In a letter dated January 9 to the Council of Civil Unions, he wrote:

"There is no decision to proceed from that to a scheme for the definitive introduction of the polygraph in security screening. That decision remains entirely open, and will be for consideration when we are in a position to assess and analyse the results of the pilot study."

A union source said last night that opposition to the polygraph would have been likely to crumble eventually at Cheltenham if the Government had stood firm. With the loss of union recognition, he added, resistance to lie-detectors would be redoubled.

GCHQ is the successor organization to the Government Code and Cypher School which it had been estimated in the Second World War shortened the conflict by some 18 months by penetrating the most secret codes and cyphers of the German, Italian and Japanese armed forces.

Since 1945 its efforts have been concentrated on the Soviet Union and its satellites, although other nations such as Argentina, which is a prime target of the Ascension Island station because of the Falklands, constantly watched. It focuses mainly on military and diplomatic traffic, but since the 1970s there has been a growing effort to glean economic and financial information.

The unionization of GCHQ "has stood out a mile for years", one insider said yesterday, as MI5 and the Secret Intelligence Service, MI6, are strictly non-union. Other parts of the intelligence community do contain union members, however, who would be affected if the Cabinet's ban was extended to all security and intelligence areas.

These include civilian members of the 900-strong Defence Intelligence Staff in the Ministry of Defence.

The case of Lieutenant-Colonel John Watts, a former member of GCHQ, who took his demotion on reaching the retiring age of 60 in 1979, to an industrial tribunal has seriously concerned the Cheltenham management. He won his case at the tribunal, but it was quashed in the Court of Appeal last year, a decision upheld by the House of Lords. Removal of GCHQ employees from the Civil Service would be an important element in the Cabinet's decision to bar unions

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