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Bettaney to face 10 secrets charges

MICHAEL BETTANEY, an MI5 official, will face 10 secrets charges when he appears for trial at the Old Bailey on Tuesday.

Bettaney, 33, of Victoria Road, Coulsdon, Surrey, was originally committed for trial accused of six offences under the Official Secrets Act.

It is understood that the basic allegations against him—that he collected and passed on information which could be useful to an enemy—are the same. The charges are:

On April 3 and June 12 last year he communicated information to a Soviet official which could be useful to an enemy.

On the same dates delivered a letter to a Soviet official setting out the precise arrangements for the communi-

cation of classified information, by use of dead letter boxes, preparatory to the communication of information to another person for purposes prejudicial to the safety or interests of the State.

On July 10 last year he delivered a letter to a Soviet official offering his services in supplying classified information preparatory to the communication of information to another person for purposes prejudicial to the safety or interests of the State.

On Sept. 7 and Sept. 12 last year; between Dec. 21, 1982, and Sept. 16, 1983; and between Sept. 6 and Sept. 16 last year, for purposes prejudicial to the safety or interests of the State, he recorded information which could be useful to an enemy.

Between April 3 and Sept. 16 last year, he collected biographical details of Soviet officials in Vienna preparatory to the communication of information to another person for purposes prejudicial to the safety or interests of the State.

Only part of the opening speech by the Attorney-General, Sir Michael Havers, and the verdicts will be in public. The rest of the trial will be behind closed doors with Press and public excluded.