IP5

Please prepare suitable
draft note to J55/L0 (L)
acknowledging & thanking
time for these documents.

An F's signature

31 Jan 61
Vice Admiral L. H. Frost
Director
National Security Agency
Fort George G. Meade, Maryland

Dear Admiral Frost:

The incident of the two planted documents (subject of my IN 8985) has inspired some interesting press commentary which you might care to read.

I'm inclosing an article from the Manchester Guardian of 18 January about the case, written by Victor Zerza who is one of the more thoughtful and reliable British columnists. In the same issue he has another article, also inclosed, which goes into the whole Soviet planting system.

Incidentally, with respect to the two documents in this latest case, it hasn't been published but identical photographs, with a similar cover letter, were mailed to a reporter in the Paris office of the New York Times.

Best regards,

[signature]

FRANK C. AUSTIN
Senior U.S. Liaison Officer, London

2 Inc1s
a/s
"TOP SECRET FORGERIES BY RUSSIA - Attempts to create bad blood between Governments"

By VICTOR ZORZA

A Secret Service headquarters in Moscow, with a main branch in East Germany, and sub-branches in places as far apart as Tokyo, New York, and Buenos Aires, has been busy planting in the newspapers of these and other cities over the past few years. The aim has been to sow what some call "secret" and "top secret" documents which were presented as confidential, or at least as representative of the most embarrassing, and potentially explosive, Western Government secrets.

In similar ways, the first publication of these documents, over the Soviet bloc was followed by concerted campaigns designed to involve the military and other Communist news distributing agencies, the widest possible publicity for these documents in the recipient areas for which they were targeted.

Several of these forgeries were ambitious and so clearly designed for political effect that the best place for them to work would be on the people in a country and not the Governments. In this way the forgeries were designed to start up all over the world, in the broadest possible circles, in order to have the greatest impact on public opinion, and even on public opinion of the Western Governments.

The first article in a series on Soviet diplomatic forgeries

when their reproductions were flaunted in the press of other countries in which America has interests. They were designed to be seen in a series, and in my files they are marked "Fake." But now that the forgeries have been largely confined to countries with a gulitistic public, it appears to have gained more sophisticated Western outlets, the time is fast approaching when the forgeries may come to examine the file with a much sharper eye and in consequence it may be that the forgeries may be disclosed on this one subject.

Not the first.

The "secret" documents bearing the signatures of Mr. Herring, the Secretary of State, and Mr. Brucker, the Secretary of the Army, which the New York Times" have been sent "through the ordinary post to an unauthorized person in London," are among the first of their kind to have been presented as such at this country. In February, according to a letter attributed to Mr. David Bruce, then United States Ambassador in West Germany, designed to show that America's espionage conduct is a way detrimental to the interests of foreign journalists and politicians in London. After creating something of a diplomatic flurry, this letter was exposed as a forgery and failed to make the headlines for which it had been designed.

In fact, however, the forgeries which have finally been brought to the press in a way, are more dangerous potential threats to the nation's security than the forgeries which have been published previously. The forgeries are designed for political effect, but one of the objectives of the forgeries is the destruction of the West German political division of the American Embassy in Bonn. The purpose of this document was to show that the West Germans were influenced by the American Embassy's activities, and that the West German government should support these actions, and that they were not free from its control.

It is true that the forgeries were designed to be seen in a series, and in my files they are marked "Fake." But now that the forgeries have been largely confined to countries with a gullitistic public, it appears to have gained more sophisticated Western outlets, the time is fast approaching when the forgeries may come to examine the file with a much sharper eye and in consequence it may be that the forgeries may be disclosed on this one subject.

The second article in a series on Soviet diplomatic forgeries

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Atomics weapons

This took the form of letters' published on the forged forklifts of the BBC office in Berlin. The photos-copies of the BBC 'letters' were so drawn up as to indicate to the recipient that they included the West German Foreign Secretary's letter that the British Foreign Office had directed the BBC to support the "Glasitee" declaration, in which the leading West German newspaper alluded to the press statement that the possible signing of the Bonnwehler has some weapons. Since it was well enough known in West Germany that this proposal was not viewed enthusiastically, some recipients of the letter may have concluded that perilous Albion was up to its tricks again.

While all these letters were carefully prepared to mislead Western officials, the "secret" documents planted in the press show evidence of more hasty preparation, for they were often timed for publication in order to produce the greatest impact on public opinion in the wake of some major political event. A study of the fifty or so documents, of the way in which they were "surplus" and "replayed," to use the terms coined by the "intelligence experts," for this new branch of their activity—after a fascinating background of human guilelessness and incompetence, of complex and highly efficient organization on a world scale, that is nevertheless subject to the kind of human error, of sheerness and sheer stupidity that forms the ingredients of any good and true story that deals with espionage or its fringed
US SECRETS "FORGED"

Story rejected by embassy

By VICTOR ZORZA

The American Embassy in London yesterday described as "fabrication from start to finish" an alleged "secret" State Department document which was the subject of the main news story in a London newspaper yesterday.

Two documents which figured in the story were supposed to have been signed by Mr Herter, the Secretary of State, and by Mr Brucker, the Army Secretary. They refer to alleged American efforts to induce Soviet citizens to take refuge in the West by various underhand methods, and to recruit spies.

The American Embassy said that its investigations had failed to reveal the existence of either document. The alleged Herter document examined by it bears a serial number and a date which shows it, to the satisfaction of American officials, to be a forgery. It calls to mind," the Embassy said, "numerous other forgeries of official documents circulated during the last few years."

Intelligence activity

The planting of such documents is in fact a well-established activity of Communist intelligence services, designed to discredit Western Governments or even to sow dissension between them. The documents in question were accompanied by an anonymous letter.

In this case it appears that the planting of the documents is primarily intended to enable the Soviet press and radio to reproduce them and thus to show to the Soviet public—and to such sections of Western opinion as will be impressed by them—that the Americans will stop at nothing to undermine the Soviet system.

The alleged letter from Mr Herter to American Embassies abroad, which purports to show the concern of the State Department at the failure to obtain suitable "defectors," is so drawn up as to suggest that the Americans are anxious to increase the flow in order to use the defectors' revelations for anti-Soviet propaganda.

While the Americans are naturally concerned at the use of official stationery for the forgeries and would like to know how it got into the forgers' hands, they are not investigating any "leakage" of the documents now published, because no such documents have ever existed. They are, however, concerned at the continued publication of the alleged details, because this would give them the appearance of verisimilitude and could be exploited by the Russians in exactly the way they had intended.

Investigating

While the American Embassy denied the authenticity of the documents outright, the State Department spokesman in Washington, pending the receipt of fuller details from London, said that the Department was "looking into" the report and thus provided some fuel for those who may wish to argue that there is no smoke without a fire.

The published "secret" State Department document bears the serial number CA-974, and is dated June 16. There had indeed been a document of that number, the Embassy said, but it was issued on July 25, 1956, to request the Embassy to extend the usual courtesies and assistance to an American clergyman travelling abroad.

("Top secret" forgeries, page 11)