

ARLINGTON HALL STATION  
MESSAGE CENTER

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(46)

INCOMING MESSAGEDate Filed MAY 21, 1943

FROM: AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO: MILID WASHINGTON  
NR: 4832

Time Filed 1212Z

DENNISTONS SHOP COM'ONLY CALLED BERKELEY STREET HAS NONE OF  
HECTIC ATMOSPHERE OF PARK BUT RATHER GIVES IMPRESSION OF WELL  
ESTABLISHED OPERATION THAT GOES ALONG THROUGH WARS AND PEACE.  
GENERAL IMPRESSION IS TYPIFIED BY THE TWO LADIES WHO RECEIVE  
AND SORT INCOMING TRAFFIC. THEY STARTED AS TELEGRAPH CLERKS  
IN POST OFFICE IN REIGN OF QUEEN VICTORIA AND WERE FULLY  
FAMILIAR WITH GENERAL FIELD WHEN THEY JOINED PRESENT  
ORGANIZATION IN 1919. THESE LITTLE BIRDLIKE OLD LADIES  
RECEIVE AND REGISTER ALL INCOMING MATERIAL AND THEY HAVE  
ACQUIRED SUCH GREAT FAMILIARITY WITH IT THAT CAN DO EVERY-  
THING EXCEPT ACTUALLY DECIPHER IT. WHOLE ORGANIZATION IS VERY  
SIMPLE AND THEY SEEM TO ACCOMPLISH A GREAT DEAL WITH QUITE  
LIMITED PERSONNEL. WHOLE OUTFIT CONSISTS OF TWO HUNDRED  
(TO STRONG FOR CLARKE AND CORDERMAN FROM MCCORMACK) 38

BODIES DIVIDED, SUBJECT TO SOME DOUBLING UP, AS FOLLOWS:  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF FIVE; DISTRIBUTION  
AND REFERENCE SECTION FIVE; SORTING SECTION TWO; TYPING 14;  
TELEPRINTER CLERKS 2; GEOGRAPHICAL SECTIONS 155; COMMERCIAL  
SECTION 50 AND RESEARCH SECTION 5. GEOGRAPHICAL SECTIONS  
ARE DIVIDED INTO ENEMY COUNTRIES NEUTRAL COUNTRIES AND ALLIES.  
PERSONNEL IN ENEMY COUNTRY SECTIONS ARE: GERMAN 26, ITALIAN

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*orig to CWC  
5/24*

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AND VATICAN 19, JAPANESE 36, FRENCH (WHICH NOW OVERLAPS  
ENEMY AND ALLIED GROUPS) 14; SIANESE 1 (WHO IN OFF MOMENT  
DOUBLES UP ON IRISE) BULGARIAN 2; ROUMANIAN 2 AND HUNGARIAN  
1. FINNISH IS NOW BEING WORKED ON IN RESEARCH SECTION.  
NEUTRAL COUNTRIES ARE DIVIDED UP AS FOLLOWS: SPANISH 6  
BODIES; PORTUGESE 10; SWISS 4 IRISH (SEE ABOVE); LATIN  
AMERICA, SPANISH LANGUAGE, 5; NEAR EAST (WHICH COVERS TURKEY,  
SAUDI ARABIA, IRAC, IRAN, AFGHANISTAN, EGYPT, PALESTINE AND  
SYRIA) 17. ALL SCANDINAVIA IS HANDLED IN OFF MOMENTS BY  
REES, WHO IS CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER. ALLIED COUNTRIES  
ACCOUNT FOR FULL TIME PERSONNEL OF 11, OF WHO EIGHT WORK ON  
CHINESE, TWO ON BELGAIN AND ONE ON GREEK. DUTCH IS DONE BY  
PEOPLE WHO WORK IN NEAR EAST SECTION, BRAZILIAN BY PORTUGESE  
SECTION, POLISH JUGOSLAV AND CZECK BY THE MAN WHO HANDLES,  
WITH A CLERK ASSISTANT, BULGARIAN MATERIAL, AND MEXICAN OF  
COURSE IS DONE BY LATIN AMERICAN SECTION, TAYLOR WILL REPORT  
LATER ON COMPOSITION OF COMMERCIAL SECTION SUBDIVISIONS.

PRINCIPAL SOURCES OF MATERIAL, OTHER THAN BY EXCHANGE WITH  
UNITED STATES, ARE CENSORSHIPS AT LONDON, OTTAWA, MAURITIUS,  
BARBADOS, GIBRALTAR AND MIDDLE EAST. (THERE ARE JOINT  
CENSORSHIPS AT CAIRO, BAGDAD, TEHRAN AND POSSIBLY ELSEWHERE),

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FOREIGN OFFICE INTERCEPTS STATIONS IN UNITED KINGDOM (DENMARK HILL, SANDRIDGE, SAINT ALBANS, WHITECHURCH, CUPAR AND BRORA) AND, THROUGH BP, OTHER INTERCEPT STATIONS AT OTTAWA, NEW DELHI, WEST AFRICA (RECENTLY DISCONTINUED) ELBOURNE, CAPETOWN, SIMONSTOWN, SUEZ, MALTA AND MAURITIUS. YOU WILL OBSERVE WHAT EXTENSIVE COVERAGE THIS ADDS UP TO. OTHER SOURCE OF MATERIAL IS "SECRET INTELLIGENCE SERVICE IN NEUTRAL CAPITALS".

GENERAL OUTLINE OF WORKINGS OF OUTFIT FOLLOWS: SORTING CLERKS ROUTE MATERIAL TO PROPER GEOGRAPHICAL SECTION, WHERE IT IS REGISTERED IN APPROPRIATE BOOK IN WHICH NOTATIONS ARE MADE UNDER FOLLOWING HEADINGS FIRST SERIAL NUMBER. SECOND CIPHER, THIRD SIGNATURE, FOURTH REFERENCE (THAT IS, TO CIPHER KEYS), FIFTH SUBJECT (BRIEFLY INDICATED), SIXTH REMARKS AND DISTRIBUTION NUMBER (THIS IS INSERTED IF MATERIAL IS DISTRIBUTED, SO THAT BY LOOKING AT ANY PAGE YOU CAN TELL WHAT HAS BEEN DISTRIBUTED AND WHAT NOT) SEVENTH SOURCE (THAT IS, INTERCEPT STATION OR OTHER POINT WHICH IT WAS PICKED UP). TRAFFIC THEN GOES TO CRYPT PEOPLE AND IF SUCCESSFULLY PROCESSED RESULTS ARE PASSED TO HEAD OF SECTION, WHO SETS ASIDE WHAT HE THINKS NOT IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO GIVE TO ANYBODY AND SENDS THE REST TO DISTRIBUTION AND REFERENCE SECTION, WHICH IS HEART OF

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ORGANIZATION AND WHICH I WILL REPORT ON IN MORE DETAIL IN ANOTHER MESSAGE. THIS SECTION DECIDES WHETHER MATERIAL IS WORTH CIRCULATING AND IF SO GIVES EACH ITEM TO BE CIRCULATED ITS PROPER SERIAL NUMBER AND SENDS UNCIRCULATED ITEMS BACK TO GEOGRAPHICAL SECTIONS FOR FILING OR DESTRUCTION. UP TO THIS POINT EVERYTHING IS DONE IN LONGHAND. ONLY WHAT IS GOING OUTSIDE IS TYPED UP. NOTE THAT CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL DOES NOT GO TO THIS SECTION BUT PROCESSES ALONG ANOTHER ROUTING WHICH TAYLOR WILL DESCRIBE. EVERYTHING THAT IS CIRCULATED GOES TO FOREIGN OFFICE AND DIRECTOR, THAT IS "C" AND EXCEPT IN VERY SPECIAL CASES EVERYTHING GOES TO WAR OFFICE AND ADMIRALTY (WILL HAVE TO CHECK FURTHER WHAT GOES TO AIR MINISTRY). THE VERY SPECIAL CASES THAT SERVICE MINISTRIES DO NOT GET ARE SUCH CASES AS WHERE MATERIAL SHOWS THAT SOME BRITISH DIPLOMAT ABROAD HAS "DROPPED A BRICK". POLICY IS TO RECOGNIZE THAT ESPECIALLY IN TIME OF WAR SERVICE MINISTRIES HAVE THEIR OWN VIEWS ON MATTERS OF FOREIGN POLICY AND ARE ENTITLED TO BE KEPT FULLY INFORMED OF ALL DIPLOMATIC DEVELOPMENTS. IN CASE OF BERKELEY STREET AS IN CASE OF PARK, WHAT IMPRESSED US WAS THE PAINS THAT ARE TAKEN TO SEE THAT ALL INFORMATION GETS OUT TO THOSE WHO CAN MAKE USE OF IT. THERE ARE LIASON OFFICERS FROM VARIOUS

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GOVERNMENTAL OFFICES WHO ARE ASSIGNED TO BERKELEY STREET AND HAVE ACCESS TO ITS MATERIAL, ALTHOUGH THIS IS NOT FULL TIME JOB AND MOST OF THEM ARE HIGH PERSONAGES. IN THIS MANNER THE FOLLOWING ARE DIRECTLY REPRESENTED IN BERKELEY STREET OPERATION: C'S OFFICE, BP, WINNIE HIMSELF, FOREIGN OFFICE, ALL THREE SERVICES, MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC WARFARE, TREASURY, WAR CABINET, COLONIAL OFFICE, MILITARY INTELLIGENCE FIVE, WHICH IS COUNTER ESPIONAGE, INDIA OFFICE AND SECRET I. INTELLIGENCE SERVICE, WHICH IS ORIGINALLY IN ANOTHER FORM BUT THIS LAST NAMED LIASON OFFICER DOES NOT SERVE C BUT SERVES OTHER BRANCHES OF THE GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING BOARD OF TRADE, DEPARTMENT OF OVERSEAS TRADE, PETROLEUM BOARD, HOME OFFICE AND MINISTER OF WAR TRANSPORT. THERE IS SOME FORM OF LIASON TO EVERYBODY WHO MIGHT BE ABLE TO ACT ON INFORMATION COMING IN. THROUGH BP LIASON IS MAINTAINED WITH WASHINGTON, NEW DELHI, MELBOURNE AND AFRICAN FORCE HEADQUARTERS. PLEASE MAKE FOLLOWING CORRECTION AT BEGINNING OF MESSAGE: ELDERLY LADIES DO NOT REGISTER OR RECORD ALL INCOMING MATERIAL, BUT ONLY MATERIAL FROM CERTAIN SOURCES, WHEN THERE IS SOME REASON TO KEEP SUCH RECORDS IN ORDER TO EVALUATE SOURCE OR TO KEEP TRACK OF SOURCE FOR SOME REASON. AT PRESENT WE ARE KEEPING

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REGISTER OF INCOMING TRAFFIC ONLY FROM MAURITIUS, PORT  
SUDAN, CAIRO, GIBRALTER, KARTOUM AND JERUSALEM. KARTOUM  
IS NOT MENTIONED ABOVE AND I BELIEVE THIS IS CENSORSHIP POINT.  
NOTE HOWEVER. THAT COMPLETE REGISTER OF ALL TRAFFIC BY NATION-  
ALITIES IS KEPT IN THE GEOGRAPHICAL SECTIONS

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