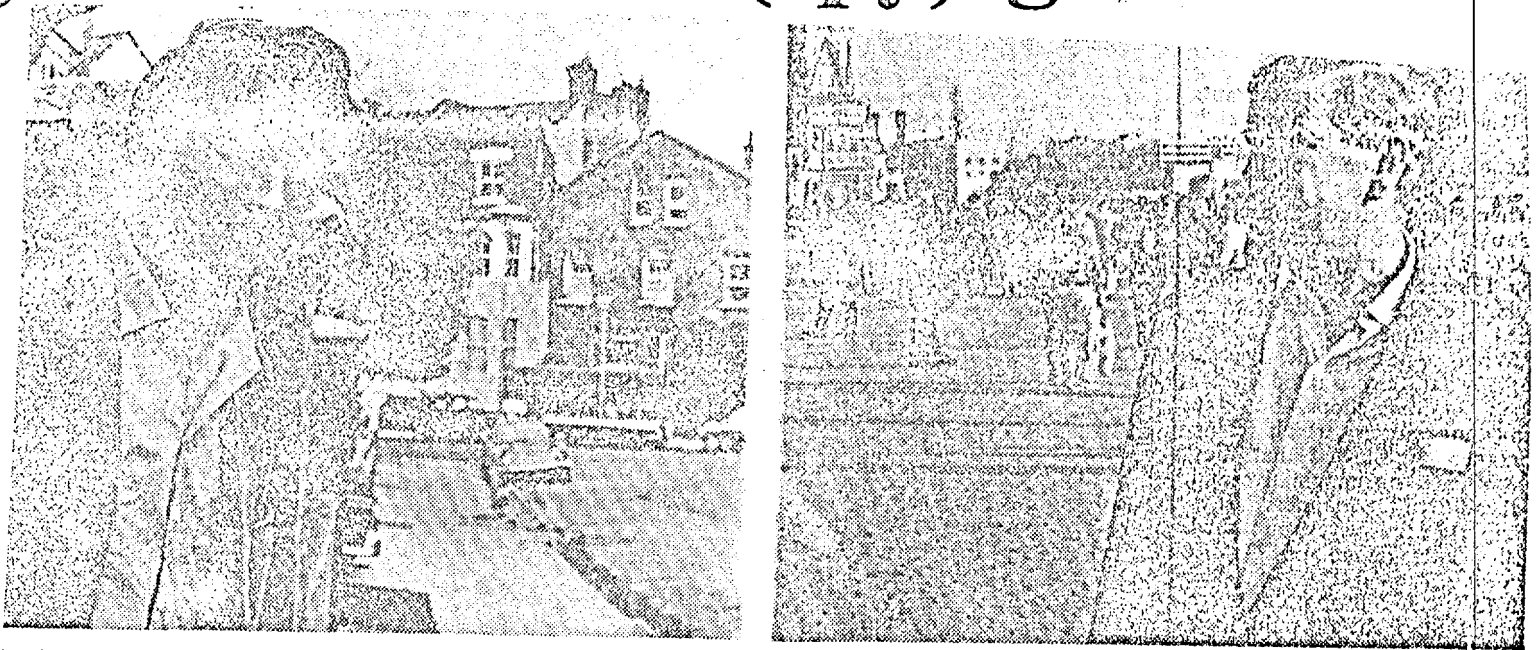


All in the (spy) game



John Philby (left) photographed in London yesterday and (right) the photograph he took of his father in Red Square, Moscow, reproduced by arrangement with *The Sunday Times*.

BY THE NEWS TEAM

The publication of photographs of Mr. George Blake and Mr. "Kim" Philby in Russia in one week, together with details of their espionage careers, brings to a climax a spate of inside information about the inner workings of intelligence operations and government secrets from both the east and the west.

It began with the revelations by Mr. Gordon Lonsdale, the Soviet spy, in a book at the end of 1965, when he poured scorn on the efficiency of British spy-catching. It looked very much like an attempt to discredit the trustworthiness of British intelligence in the eyes of America. Driving a wedge between the two countries has long been an aim of Soviet policy.

But Mr. Harold Evans, editor of *The Sunday Times*, emphatically denied yesterday that his paper's articles on Mr. Philby were facilitated by Russian connivance.

"It is not a plant", he said, explaining that the material was the result of nine months' research by a large team of reporters working in many parts of the world.

Counter blows to Wynne book

He said the investigation was virtually complete before Mr. Philby's son, John, came on the scene and was sent off to Moscow to interview his father with a list of prepared questions and a camera.

But he agreed that had the Russians truly wished Mr. Philby to remain out of reach, they would have ensured he had

The same must apply to the Blake photographs which were obtained in Moscow by his mother after Mr. Blake himself instigated her visit.

The fact that the Russians did not prevent these two British newspaper scoops suggests that they are content for both to act as counter-propaganda blows to the Greville Wynne book just published.

Newspaper rivalry over the Philby exploits has been intense.

A source on *The Observer* said yesterday that the paper's chief Middle East correspondent, Mr. Patrick Seale, who had been Mr. Philby's number two in Beirut until he vanished, had been working on the story ever since the disappearance.

Hand of the CIA at work

At the same time he had been allowed time off to work on a book with Mrs. Eleanor Philby, to be published in about six months time.

He was also preparing a series of articles on the Philby case which *The Observer* had been planning to carry next summer.

It was only when it was discovered that *The Sunday Times* was taking a great interest in the case that *The Observer* prepared the article carried in yesterday's issue.

The synopsis of the book was in the hands of the publishers, Hamish Hamilton, and the book would be published in about six months' time.

This image-consciousness would appear to have begun when Mr. Philby was running the Portland spy ring and

swapped in April 1964 for Mr. Wynne, started writing his memoirs.

Certainly his book *Spy* was considered an impressive shot in the propaganda game, and credit was felt to belong to the Soviet state security K.G.B. department.

It was followed by a riposte, if a fortuitous one, in the form of *The Penkovsky Papers* published in Britain by Collins and serialized in *The Observer*. These were said to be notes and sketches accumulated by Mr. Oleg Penkovsky, who was sentenced to death in Moscow in 1963 after an espionage trial in which Mr. Wynne was co-defendant.

The Russians condemned them as false and even some western quarters saw the hand of the American Central Intelligence Agency at work.

The memoirs of Mrs. Svetlana Alliluyeva provided the next move in the espionage propaganda chess game. The Russians attempted to discredit her by circulating a version of her book supposedly left behind in Moscow, evidently believing that the western version would have been largely ghosted by the C.I.A.

Intrigues profitable for both sides

More embarrassing to them, however, has been Mr. Wynne's book *The Man from Moscow* in which he says that for three days he went through a dress rehearsal of the trial in the Moscow courtroom.

Both sides would appear to be prepared to take their chances in making whatever capital they can from the cloak and dagger intrigues. Legitimizing the spy ring and thereby making their job easy.