



Mr Philip Agee, the former CIA agent who has been ordered to leave Britain, giving his last Press conference in London yesterday before being deported today.

## I WILL BE BACK, SAYS AGEE

By GERARD KEMP

MR PHILIP AGEE, the former spy in the American Central Intelligence Agency, who now makes a living out of exposing CIA men and methods, held a Press conference in London yesterday.

To the astonishment of all but his most ardent admirers, he announced that after his deportation today (on the 11.45 a.m. Harwich Ferry to the Hook of Holland), he intends returning to Britain in September.

I asked him if you had heard correctly.

Oh yes, Mr Agee said blandly, he was coming back all right. He'd pop in en route to New York, after a summer tour of the continent.

"I don't think I've done anything so terrible that I'll be barred for the rest of my life.

After all, Government's change and so do Secretaries of State."

It was like a reunion of old friends yesterday when the Agee saga came to an end and journalists who have followed him crowded into a small room over The Northumberland Arms in Kings Cross Road.

### Watchdog MASA

Mr Agee was there to welcome them with photo-copies of anti-CIA material. Also handed out was a newsletter published by the newly-formed "Movement Against Security Abuses."

It began: "May 1977 will go down in British history as a black month for freedom."

MASA, we were told, had been formed by a merging of the now no longer-needed Agee-Hosenball Defence Committee (Hosenball has already been deported) and the Aubrey, Berry and Campbell Defence Committee.

Sitting under a "Southern Comfort" pub interior, Mr Agee was flanked by his solicitor, Mr Larry Grant, and Mr Phil Kelly, organiser for the A.H. Defence Committee. Mr Kelly, who sports a droopy ginger moustache, admitted to feeling "a sense of loss."

Bravely, he tossed his head back and said: "But wherever Phil Agee is living, he'll be only a telephone call away."

Mr Agee's return to Britain campaign to keep Mr Agee in Britain had failed, but the committee had succeeded in

### Not guilty

Mr Agee spoke of "vague and unsubstantiated allegations" made against him. "They" were out to prove that he had never worked alone, that there was a Russian and Cuban connection. Not true, he said. And he: "never had any knowledge of British security operations."

He wanted to put the record straight, he said. At a recent Press conference he had named a man as being a CIA agent. He had made a mistake and he was sorry about it. "I've checked and I don't think he is" he said. "I'd hate to say he was a CIA agent if he wasn't."

Mr Agee said he was all in favour of all intelligence-gathering in the United States being prohibited "except in time of war."

There was a campaign in the United States "to stop Government spying" and it was backed by many fine bodies and organisations, including the Church of Scientology.

Waxing enthusiastic, Mr Agee came out with a claim which will doubtless be of interest to Mr Merlyn Rees, Home Secretary. It seemed that Mr Rees had not made the deportation decision at all. He was just following orders from Mr Callaghan and the late Mr Crosland.

Mr Agee said his summer tour of the continent would be to check on schools and housing "to decide which country is best to settle in." After dropping in on Britain on his way back to the United States he intends living in Europe "for a year or two."