



Prime Minister

ML

30.4

SECRET

HANDLE VIA COMINT CHANNELS ONLY

PRIME MINISTER

A book entitled "The Hut Six Story", by Gordon Welchman, has been published in the United States and is due for publication in this country in June.

2. Welchman was in charge of Hut 6 at Bletchley Park during the first part of the War. Hut 6 was responsible for the cryptanalysis of German Enigma traffic. The book goes into very considerable technical detail about the methods developed for this work. Much of the information in the book is still classified in both the United Kingdom and the United States.

3. Little World War II cryptanalytic information is directly relevant to present day exploitation. None of the revelations are directly damaging to UKUSA Sigint. There must however be some indirect damage, in the sense that so long as Sigint and cryptanalysis are kept in the public eye by books of this sort, foreign COMSEC organisations will receive more funds and will be stimulated to greater efforts.

4. The United States Justice Department have concluded that for all practical purposes legal action against Welchman in the United States is not feasible. In this country, it is thought that any legal action to try to prevent publication would be difficult, with no guarantee of success. The Secretary of the D Notice Committee has spoken to the British publishers, but after consideration they have decided to go ahead.

Who are the publishers?
MI

RA

Robert Armstrong

30th April 1982

SECRET

HANDLE VIA COMMINT CHANNELS ONLY



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File AW

Security
April or Cab 2

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

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SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

I have shown the Prime Minister your minute A09100 of 26 July 1982, and she has noted that the book "The Hut Six Story" was published in this country on 22 July.

AW

27 July 1982

AW

SECRET



HVCCO

Prime Minister 2

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Ref. A09100

MR. WHITMORE

I sent you a minute on 30th April about a book about Bletchley Park, entitled "The Hut Six Story", by Gordon Welchman.

2. I understand that the book was published in this country on 22nd July.

MW

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

26th July, 1982

SECRET

HVCCO

Security



10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister,

The answer to your
question: What is Allen
have.

JAW

S.V.821

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Confidential Security



From the Secretary of the Cabinet

Mr Whitmore

"The Hut Six Story"

The British publishers
are Allen Lane.

RA

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

The Prime Minister has seen your minute A08285 about Mr Gordon Welchman's book "The Hut Six Story".

She has noted that there seems no real prospect of preventing publication of the book. She would like to know, however, who the British publishers are.

JAW.

5 May 1982

AA

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