
Obituary

Kim Philby and the inner workings of the Anglo-Soviet 'Trust'

by Scott Thompson

Although Kim Philby (1911-88) died weeks before the Reagan-Gorbachov summit pageant in Moscow, the spirit of Philby was paid homage in a way that the Anglo-Soviet Trust's most notorious product would have found most befitting a man of his treason. In the immediate aftermath of Ronald Reagan's humiliating performance, the virtual entirety of the U.S. intelligence community proclaimed to all who would listen that the summit had been a grand success, and that the United States, Western Europe, and Japan could now safely embark on a massive technology transfer—\$70-100 billion a year—to the Soviet Union and her Eastern European satellites, with little fear that Moscow would turn the West's generosity into fuel for further conquests.

Not since 1982, when British Intelligence hailed the incoming Soviet chief Yuri Andropov, that "lover of Glenn Miller jazz albums and British whiskey," as "our man," had the specter of the Trust been made so dominant within Anglo-American intelligence circles.

The legacy of the treacherous Philby, if any genuine good is to be derived from reflection, lies not so much in the ferreting out of the "boys he left behind." Rather, a deeper and more profound understanding of the Trust mentality must emerge.

Our special role

In 1977, associates of this journal published a pamphlet-length study of Henry A. Kissinger, drawing the conclusion that the former Secretary of State was a British agent—more specifically, an agent of the British Round Table faction associated with the Royal Household.

Esteemed figures in U.S. intelligence responded to the Kissinger dossier with loud protests that Kissinger was, if anything, a Soviet agent.

Sensing that the *EIR* file had struck a sensitive nerve, particularly among CIA contemporaries of Philby, *EIR* founder and contributing editor Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. proposed a detailed review of the case of the most notorious Anglo-Soviet agent, Kim Philby. So began a decade-long study by teams of *EIR* researchers into the "Trust," the network interfacing the Establishments and secret services of

East and West.

Years later, as if to answer *EIR*'s efforts to unravel the secrets of the Trust, a major British daily published a boasting article all but admitting that Philby had never left Her Majesty's service.

As with most intelligence profiles, the underlying truth of the Philby file begins with a straightforward review of the catalogued leading features of the subject's career. In the special case of Philby, such a profile necessarily begins with a look at Philby's father.

In father's footsteps—always

Kim Philby was born in Ambala, India in 1911. His father, St. John Philby, was one of the most colorful and impassioned players of the "Great Game," who nicknamed his son "Kim" after the boy in Rudyard Kipling's story. Truly, as Sir Ronald Wingate, the son of St. John Philby's colleague in the "Great Game," Wingate Pasha of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, remarked, "If you want to understand Kim Philby, you must first try to understand the father."

Born in 1885, St. John Philby was the son of a British tea planter who had married May Duncan, a daughter of the commanding officer of the Colombo Rifles. When his mother returned to England, St. John Philby accompanied her, and became a Queen's Scholar at Westminster School, one of the major English public schools associated with the government, whose graduates had included John Locke and Jeremy Bentham. St. John Philby was next awarded an education in the classics at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he graduated with distinction as "a golden lad of the empire."

While at Cambridge, St. John Philby had become inculcated with the idea of manipulating religion as a weapon in the "Great Game." His teachers included E.G. Browne, the successor to Richard Burton, who was the number-one British expert on Islamic, Persian, and Sufi mysticism. Browne had been the architect of the 1905 Persian "revolution," and he had been the chief sponsor of Afghanistan Prime Minister Jamaledine al-Afghani, who was a fundamentalist predecessor of the Muslim Brotherhood. Under the direction of such teachers as Browne, St. John Philby had begun a con-

version to what he called "agnosticism, atheism, anti-imperialism, socialism, and general progressive revolt against the philosophical and political canons in which I was brought up."

At Cambridge, St. John Philby also became a Fabian Socialist, thus joining the loyal left-wing opposition of the British Round Table Society (today identified with the Royal Institute for International Affairs), which was created by South African diamond and gold magnate Cecil Rhodes with support of the powerful Cecil family bloc.

After Cambridge, St. John Philby was posted to the Indian civil service, which in 1908 placed him in Punjab. He spent most of his time playing with religious divisions between Hindu and Muslim, upon which the later balkanization of the subcontinent was based. During World War I, St. John Philby joined the British expeditionary army in Mesopotamia, now part of Iraq, which was then ruled by Germany's ally, Turkey. Recruited to British intelligence by Sir Percy Cox, St. John Philby was launched upon a career that would make him as notorious in his lifetime as the vainglorious homosexual sadist, T.E. Lawrence ("of Arabia").

It was through his association with the Fabian Society that St. John Philby first had dealings with the Anglo-Soviet Trust. In 1920, he stained his skin nut brown and put on a burnoose to infiltrate the Communist International's Congress of Peoples of the East, at Baku, Azerbaijan. This congress, convened by Anglo-Soviet Trust agent Georgi Zinoviev, had as its purpose to raise the tribes from the Near East to Delhi to strike at imperial London. The Baku Congress marked the Bolsheviks' first entry into the "Great Game." St. John Philby was to remain in touch with Soviet Orientalists throughout his life.

Following postings with the first Iraqi government (1920-21) and as chief British representative to the old Turkish province of Transjordan (today, Israel and Jordan), Philby nominally "resigned" from the British civil service in 1925. Parking his wife, Dora Johnston, and son Kim in England, St. John Philby went off to become the confidential adviser of Abdel-Aziz Ibn Saud, the leader of the Wahabi tribe, whose coronation as King of Saudi Arabia had been arranged by Philby.

On Aug. 7, 1930, St. John Philby shocked his British intelligence colleagues, when, claiming "dissociation from British ideals," he traveled to Mecca to convert to Islam.

At the start of World War II, during one of his periodic spat with King Ibn Saud, St. John Philby returned to England, where he ran for Parliament on the slate of an arm of Sir Oswald Mosley's British Union of Fascists. At the outbreak of World War II, St. John Philby was arrested under the Defense of the Realm Act for his pro-Nazi speeches. Yet, his son, Kim Philby mobilized his father's friends in British intelligence to get St. John out of jail.

It was from his father, St. John Philby, that Kim Philby learned to play with the fate of nations as if they were toys.

St. John Philby molded his son in his own image, sending him to Westminster, where, Kim reported that he learned "to bugger and be buggered." From Westminster, Kim Philby followed in his father's footsteps to Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1929.

It was at Cambridge that Kim Philby first came into contact with Guy Francis de Moncey Burgess. When Kim Philby arrived at Cambridge, it was one year after Stalin had delivered a major setback to the Anglo-Soviet Trust with the demotion of Trust agent Nikolai Bukharin and the ending of the New Economic Policy. In this year, pro-Soviet cells were established at such leading British schools as Oxford, Cambridge, the University of London, and the London School of Economics; two-thirds of the leadership of the Communist Party of Great Britain (CPGB) would be recruited from these cells, including the espionage ring featuring Philby, Burgess, and Donald Maclean. Contact between the Cambridge University Socialist Society and Comintern headquarters was maintained through one Douglas Springhill.

The "soul" of the Cambridge "cell" was something known as the Cambridge Conversazione Society, or "Apostles." The Apostles had been at the center of British intelligence operations of differing kinds ever since they were founded by the Tennyson brothers in the early 19th century, originally to recruit cadre for an operation of the Anglican Church to overthrow the Bourbon monarchy in Spain. The generation of Apostles (or "Angels," as they were known) before Philby and Burgess's entry included Charles Percy Sanger, Bertrand Lord Russell, R.C. and G.M. Trevelyan, G.E. Moore, G.H. Hardy, and Desmond McCarthy. Their principal activity had been to destroy continental science of the Leibnizian tradition.

In Philby's time, the Apostles had come under the influence of the chief Soviet secret agent in London, Samuel Borisovich Cahan. The faculty adviser, Sir Dennis Robertson, had been a good friend of St. John Philby and proved perfectly knowledgeable of the Communist cell created within the Apostles. It was Anthony Blunt, the son of St. John Philby's contemporary, Wilfred Blunt, who recruited the outrageously homosexual Guy Burgess to the Apostles. Other Apostles of Philby's generation included: Lytton Strachey, Leonard Woolf of Bloomsbury notoriety; John Meynard Keynes; and, Arthur Lee Hobhouse, who was the nephew of Beatrice Webb, wife of Sidney Webb and a co-founder of the British Fabian Society.

That the Cambridge espionage cell was established with full support of a powerful faction of the British oligarchy associated with the Anglo-Soviet Trust, is highlighted by the protection enjoyed by members of the Apostles, as well as the summer 1933 trip that Guy Burgess undertook to the Soviet Union with a homosexual friend from Oxford. While in Moscow, Burgess met with Trust agent Bukharin and with the chief of Comintern intelligence, Osip Piatnitsky, based upon letters of introduction supplied by David Astor, the son

of Lady Nancy Astor. This was the same Lady Nancy Astor who Claud Cockburn alleged ran the infamous "Cliveden Set," whose goal was a British alliance with Nazi Germany against Russia during the period of King Edward VIII's espousal of such a plan. Lady Astor and her husband, Viscount Waldorf Astor, had made a 1931 trip to the Soviet Union in the company of British Fabian Society member George Bernard Shaw. Like Sir Anthony Blunt, David Astor, who continually reappears throughout the Philby-Burgess-Maclean story, has been fully protected by powerful members of the Anglo-Soviet Trust.

Upon his graduation from Cambridge in 1934, Kim Philby traveled to Vienna, to work for Bertrand Russell's Quaker Service Committee, while "secretly" joining the Austrian Communist Party underground. Contemporaries of Philby in Vienna included Stephen Spender, another outrageous "Child of the Sun" who had just returned from "Red Berlin."

One of the deepest secrets of Philby's stay in Vienna was his marriage to his landlady, Frau Litz Friedman, who was well known to the Austrian security service as a Marxist revolutionary. It is reported, but unconfirmed, that the best man at this wedding was Teddy Kollek, the future mayor of Jerusalem. Philby returned to London with his wife, but broke with her shortly thereafter. She later surfaced in East Germany to cast suspicion upon Philby after World War II.

After his return from Vienna, Philby surfaced with Guy Burgess in a job with the Anglo-German Fellowship (AGF), which was then involved in an open conspiracy to swing support in England behind Hitler for a drive against the Soviet Union. Burgess was recruited to the AGF by a former director of MI-5, Sir Joseph Ball, who was fully aware of Burgess's Comintern and homosexual connections.

Throughout his employment with the AGF, Guy Burgess received a regular stipend from the mother of Lord Nathaniel Mayer Victor Rothschild—one of the leaders of the Jewish community in England—who is another protected associate of Philby, Burgess, and Maclean.

For Philby, a position with the AGF was distinctly secondary to his real goal. On his return to London, he applied to sit for the British Civil Service examination. Unfortunately for Philby, two of his three references from Cambridge—including Sir Dennis Robertson of the Apostles—refused to recommend him, because he was considered a security risk. Philby withdrew his application for the civil service, and, through the assistance of Robin Barrington-Ward, deputy editor of the Astor family publication, *The Times*, who knew Philby's father from Westminster, Philby was hired as a journalist and assigned to report on Gen. Francisco Franco's efforts to defeat the Spanish Republicans. While in Spain, Philby maintained covert ties with Walter Krivitsky, the GRU agent in charge of all Spanish operations until his defection during the Stalin purges. Krivitsky later tipped off American intelligence that Philby was a Soviet agent, shortly before Krivitsky was murdered on orders from Stalin.

Entering the secret service

After the Munich summit of 1938, in whose arrangements he had assisted through the Anglo-German Fellowship, Guy Burgess was hired by Section D of MI-6, which gave him the assignment of founding a school for sabotage. Burgess named his school Guy Fawkes College, after the anarchist who nearly blew up Parliament during Queen Elizabeth I's reign. Burgess brought Philby on board.

Whereas Philby's Communist associations had made it impossible for him to join the British Civil Service earlier, his application for a transfer to MI-6 met with different results. He was given positive clearance by Col. Valentine Vivian, an associate of St. John Philby since their days together in Punjab, who knew about both Philby's Communist credentials and his compromising marriage to Litz Friedman. Despite this knowledge, Colonel Vivian arranged for Philby to become the right-hand man to Felix Cowgill, a former Indian policeman, who then headed Section V (counterintelligence) of MI-6.

The only conclusion that can be drawn is that Philby was brought into the British intelligence service, precisely because of his Communist connections. The period was one that followed a major faction fight within the British oligarchy that had pitted those members of the aristocracy around King Edward VIII who wanted an open alliance with Nazi Germany against the Soviet Union, against those who wanted to split the Hitler-Stalin Pact and ally with Russia, bringing Russia into war against Germany. Under such circumstances, a "double agent" would be invaluable. In addition to Philby and Hugh Trevor-Roper, Section V contained Malcolm Muggeridge and Graham Greene, who have both been lifelong apologists for Philby's treason.

In September 1944, Philby was promoted over Felix Cowgill, at the insistence of Colonel Vivian, to become head of the newly established Section IX (Soviet intelligence). Philby then wrote the new section's charter. "I cannot remember its exact wording. But it gave me responsibility, under the Chief, for the collection and interpretation of information concerning Soviet and Communist espionage and subversion in all parts of the world outside British territory. It also enjoined me to maintain the closest liaison for the reciprocal exchange of intelligence on these subjects with MI-5."

For his services, in 1946, Philby was made a Companion of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, one rank below that of knight.

After two years as chief of operations in Istanbul, where he kept an eye on Turkish-Russian tensions, in September 1949, Philby received the highest field position in MI-6, British Security Coordination in Washington. Donald Maclean had preceded Philby in Washington, where, as first secretary of the British embassy in 1944, he served as secretary to the Anglo-American Combined Policy Committee on Atomic Developments. Maclean kept the Soviets apprised of

the latest developments in the atomic bomb program. Eventually, electronic intercepts led American intelligence to suspect that there was a leak in the British embassy. Maclean had a nervous breakdown before the suspicion fell fully upon him, and was temporarily posted to Cairo in 1948 under a cloud. Philby arrived to take his place.

Philby penetrated the Central Intelligence Agency to the core from its founding. He struck up a close friendship with Frank G. Wisner, former OSS assistant to Allen Dulles who had run the State Department's Office of Policy Coordination before its collapse into the CIA. Through Wisner, Philby gained a complete oversight of the Dulles brothers policy of "Operation Rollback" toward the Soviet Union.

In 1950, Maclean returned from Cairo to head the Foreign Office's American Department. While in this post, Maclean railed against General MacArthur's conduct of the Korean War, winning broad support within the British Foreign Office. Guy Burgess, then a personal assistant to Hector McNeil, a junior minister in the Bevin government, was also known for his diatribes against MacArthur. Meanwhile, from his post in Washington, Philby kept the Soviets abreast of American plans in the the Korean War, costing untold numbers of American lives.

In October 1950, Burgess was reassigned to Washington, D.C. as a junior assistant in the Far Eastern Division of the British embassy. This was the same month that MacArthur's forces crossed the 39th parallel, only to be confronted by a surprise attack of 400,000 Chinese troops at the Yalu River.

As soon as he arrived in Washington, Burgess moved into the home of Kim Philby, but his wild behavior soon led American intelligence to install a tap that raised suspicions about both Burgess and Philby being Soviet agents. Philby used Burgess as his courier in May 1951 to warn Maclean that he must defect to Moscow: a warning that Philby could make, because his position enabled him to monitor the American probe of the earlier leaks from the British embassy. May 25, 1951, when Burgess and Maclean both left for the Soviet Union, was the same day that Herbert Morrison, assistant secretary of state for foreign affairs, had set to call Maclean in for interrogation. When Burgess fled with Maclean, suspicion fell almost immediately upon Philby as well. Gen. Walter Bedell Smith, then director of the CIA, proclaimed Philby *persona non grata*.

In 1956, under questioning in Parliament whether Kim Philby had been "the third man," Harold Macmillan, then foreign secretary, assured Parliament that no evidence had been found that it was Philby who warned Burgess.

Once his name was publicly cleared, MI-6 arranged with Burgess's old friend, David Astor, to have Philby employed by the *Observer* newspaper. The Rothschilds' *Economist* also provided Philby with journalistic cover. In 1956, Philby arrived in Beirut, Lebanon, where he would work for a decade which started with the 1956 Suez Crisis and ended with the Six-Day War. It was a tumultuous decade in which the

British imperial position was being steadily eroded. Philby lived with his father, who had taken up residence in the Chouf Mountains of Lebanon after yet another falling-out with the Saudi royal family following the death of King Ibn Saud in 1953. During his stay in Lebanon, Philby spent almost every evening with his father. St. John Philby turned over his networks to Kim Philby. Throughout his stay in the Middle East, Philby was widely known to be a Soviet "double agent" and he was involved in complicated espionage and counter-espionage games.

Finally, in 1963, following the "confession" of Sir Anthony Blunt, Philby defected to the Soviet Union. His way there was paved by Nicholas Elliott, a senior official of MI-6, who permitted Philby's escape after Philby's "confession." Philby disappeared, to surface in the Soviet Union on Jan. 27, 1963, where he rejoined Burgess and Maclean to form a pole for the Anglo-Soviet Trust within the Soviet Union. Together, Philby and Maclean played an especially critical role in revamping the Soviet secret services on the pattern of the 1920s Trust. As part of this reorganization, the Soviets formed such foreign affairs think tanks as the Institute on World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO), the Oriental Institute, and the U.S.A.-Canada Institute. Maclean became a prominent British affairs specialist at IMEMO, while Philby had a direct hand in revamping the KGB along the lines of the Anglo-Soviet Trust. This was especially true after Yuri Andropov became chief of the KGB in 1967.

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